

QUARTERLY



The College of New Rochelle Alumnae/i Magazine

Fall 2004 | Volume 76 | No. 2

CNR Colors Shine Above New York City as Centennial Celebration Concludes

(Story on Page 2)

Celebrate 100 Years
of The College of New Rochelle!

Have you ever wondered about an old couldn't get her artist friend from Mt.

When Earlie Richardson was chosen as one of the students to be profiled in the spring issue of *Quarterly*, he never imagined that it would have so profound an effect on his life and on the life of a friend – long out of touch and living thousands of miles away. But it did.

couldn't get her artist friend from Mt. Vernon off her mind. So, when several days later she picked up a magazine from a pile of mail in her mother's office, she screamed with delight.

The magazine, addressed to her mother Anna Swanston SNR'80 and a former ELI instructor at the Rosa Parks Campus, was *Quarterly*, and on its cover was the smiling face of – you guessed it – SNR student Earlie Richardson.

"Stephanie is such a wonderful person," says Earlie. "And it's funny that all the time she was thinking about me, I was in New York thinking 'Stephanie,

Fostering life-long relationships and reconnecting old friends, that's what *Quarterly* does best.

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A Deeper Look at
*Choose to Care***

Cover: As the College concluded its Centennial celebration in September with a weekend of festivities, the landmark Empire State Building was lit in blue and white to honor the College. Photo by Joe Rosen.

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CNR Ends Centennial Year with Grand Celebration

It was a year that celebrated a century – a century of magnificent vision, a century of great achievement, and a century of tremendous growth for The College of New Rochelle. In September 1904, a dozen young women entered the lion-studded doors of Leland Castle to become the first students of Mother Irene Gill's fledgling endeavor on Castle Place. Those women, seeking a college degree at a time when women did not even have the right to vote, paved the way for the more than 40,000 that have followed them over the past 100 years – 40,000 women and men, of all ages, all faiths, and all races, 40,000 women and men who are now part of the legacy of The College of New Rochelle and all that it has accomplished.

The College of New Rochelle has much to celebrate. And indeed, over the course of the last year, a grand celebration has taken place. From liturgies which honored the rich spiritual foundation of the College, to gala dinners which brought the College Community together from far and wide, to intellectual discourse on core elements essential to the College even today – the recognition of what it means to be a Catholic college, an unwavering commitment to women, the primacy of the liberal arts, unreserved embrace of diversity, and devotion to education for service – this year's festivities have truly been memorable.

And the culmination of that very special year was memorable as well, as during a September weekend, almost 100 years to the day the first classes began at The College of New

(continued on page 4)



Adding to the sense of celebration, the Con Edison Tower, on Irving Place in Manhattan, was also lit in honor of the College's Centennial throughout the weekend.



The Grand Hyatt dance floor was packed throughout the evening.



BY LENORE BOYTIM CARPINELLI SAS'89

"Since the Ursulines came to the United States, guided by the wonderful example and prayer of Saint Angela Merici, everywhere they've been they've left an example of faith and nobility that is simply outstanding... I hope we will keep our eyes ever on the inspiration that made the wonder of The College of New Rochelle possible - women who turned their lives over to serve the poorest of the poor..."

— Edward Cardinal Egan

Closing the College's Centennial year celebration, a liturgy at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan drew more than 1,000 alumnae/i, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the College.



CNR President Stephen Sweeny presented the College's past honorary degree recipients who attended the dinner dance with Centennial Medals (pictured front row from left): Sr. Brigid Driscoll, RSHM, M. Patricia Durrant, Avery Cardinal Dulles, Rabbi Amiel Wohl, Barbara Aronstein Black, Sr. Jean Baptiste Nicholson, OSU '60, Sr. Loretta Therese Richards, FHM; (pictured back row from left): Kevin Duffy, Rev. Bernard McMahon, Sr. Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, Stephen Sweeny, Rev. Joseph O'Hare, SJ, Ruth Watson Lubic, Victor Gotbaum, and Mauro C. Romita.



George Neumann, trustee, Sr. Jeanne Brennan, OSU '45, trustee, Marsha Ambler, Michael Ambler, chair, Board of Trustees, and Mary Jane Neumann.



Jim Southard, Tania Quinn SNR'96, GS'99, Elza Dinwiddie-Boyd, Dean, SNR, Kristine Southard, Co-op City Campus Director, SNR, and David Brunt, an instructor at the SNR DC 37 Campus.



Nicole Totans SAS'99, Renee Blackwell SAS'95, Ray Davies, and Kelley Allen SAS'98.

Cover Story

(continued from page 3)

Rochelle, nearly 1,500 faculty, staff, students, alumnae/i, and friends were on hand to celebrate the College once more at a gala dinner dance and a mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City the following day.

With the rain and winds of the remnants of Hurricane Ivan abated, more than 400 gathered in the ballroom of the Grand Hyatt hotel on 42nd Street on Saturday for an evening of fine dining and dancing. In fact, that night all of New York was aglow in celebration as the landmark Empire State Building, as well as the Con Edison Tower on Irving Place, were lit in blue and white to honor the College.

Master of Ceremonies David Muir, ABC News anchor and correspondent, began the evening's program by reflecting back on his own liberal arts education at Ithaca College, recalling a letter he wrote when just 12 years old to Walter Cronkite in which he asked the famed journalist for career advice. Heeding the guidance he received to get a liberal arts education, a dozen years later, he found himself sharing the anchor desk with Walter Cronkite.

David Muir then went on to introduce Michael Ambler, Chair of the College's Board of Trustees, who acknowledged the great accomplishment over the last century of the Ursulines, lay faculty and staff, students, alumnae/i, and friends who have "made CNR an academic treasure as well as a caring family... which educates students from 18 to 80... students who take their learning and experience into the world and make us proud with their commitment to excellence across the many fields in business and service... Isn't that what wisdom for life is all about?"

Following Michael Ambler at the podium, CNR President Stephen Sweeny greeted the "members of the family of CNR" and recognized more than a dozen women and men who had received honorary degrees from the College with Centennial Medals, created especially for the 100th anniversary to symbolize a special association between the recipient and the College.

"Each honorary degree recipient we choose represents in his or her life and achievements the very values of The College of New Rochelle," said Dr. Sweeny. "Among them are distinguished leaders in the Church, in education, in business, in labor, in health care, in the arts, in the sciences, in jurisprudence, in international affairs. Some are famous in the classrooms, in the board rooms, in the courtrooms, in legislative arenas, some give us great pleasure in art work or dance or song, some visit the sick in their homes, some have put their lives on the line for peace and justice in Ireland, in the Holy Land, in South Africa, in Selma, Alabama, and the segregated South. All are people of personal and professional achievement – and I dare say – of conscience and compassion as well. The College is profoundly honored to be associated with them."

Avery Cardinal Dulles, the Laurence J. McGinley Professor of Religion and Society at Fordham University, then offered the blessing before – the formal program for the evening now concluded – everyone turned their attention to the appetizing dinners and to enjoying some good conversation before many took to the dance floor. With the upbeat music of the Harrington Orchestra ranging from "Boogie Oogie Oogie" to "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B" and from "YMCA" to the "Electric Slide," the dance floor soon filled to overflowing as the party continued well into the night.

A Liturgy of Thanksgiving

The next day with the tropical storm past, the sun shone in a bright blue sky, though the brisk air clearly signaled that fall was just a few days away. Arriving at St. Patrick's for the special liturgy on Sunday afternoon, more than 1,000 members of the College Community quickly filled pew after pew in the majestic nave of the Cathedral, the magnificent stained glass windows and soaring granite columns rising above them. With the beautiful voices of the Cathedral's choir singing "All Creatures of Our God and King" echoing across the vaulted ceilings, the long procession of CNR students, alumnae, faculty, and priests in full vestments marched down the main aisle to the spectacular Tavernelle marble altar, where Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York, took his place as celebrant of the liturgy.

Participating throughout the mass were members of the CNR family, who served as the cross and candle bearers, as thurifer, and brought up the gifts. Reverend Bernard McMahon, Professor Emeritus of English, served as a concelebrant, and Helen Wolf, Director of Campus Ministry, led the singing of the intercessions. Judy Kenny SNR'82, President of the Alumnae/i Association, and Sr. Jeanne Giebelhouse, OSU '65, Prioress of the Community of St. Teresa, were the lectors for the day's scriptural readings. And Father Joseph Flynn, OFM Cap., College Chaplain, delivered the moving homily.

Stepping up to the intricately carved pulpit, Father Joe described a cold winter morning 55 years ago, a morning of great pride and inspiration for him. On that morning, Father Joe's father and uncle, grave diggers from the Archdiocese's Calvary Cemetery, were among a group of poor laborers who marched outside St. Patrick's crying out for a decent wage and

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Photo top: At the conclusion of the liturgy, CNR President Stephen Sweeny presented Edward Cardinal Egan with the College's Centennial Medal, which was created especially for the 100th anniversary to symbolize a special association between the recipient and the College.

Photo bottom: Stepping up to the intricately carved pulpit, Father Joseph Flynn, OFM Cap., College Chaplain, gave the homily.



Following the liturgy, members of the College Community enjoyed a wonderful reception at the Waldorf=Astoria, including (photo above) Sr. Mary Dowd, OSU '49, Blanche Dickinson Ryan '48, Lorraine Hoskins Amberg '48 and (photo right) Eileen Crawford Kelmer '43, Sally O'Hagan Fisher '43, Kay Glassing Farrell '43, Sr. M. Paula Holdman, SC '42, and Mary O'Hagan '43.



Cover Story

(continued from page 5)

pleading to be heard. Yet when the bell tolled for mass, they laid down their placards and went in to worship.

"I remember my father telling me how he and the others who protested that day felt the power of their actions and the strength that comes from speaking out against injustice... Simply understood, these courageous laborers were inspired to think creatively... to read the signs of the times... and to raise the level of dignity for themselves and in doing so raise the level of dignity of others... values that are central to the mission of The College of New Rochelle."

Recalling the early days of the College, he continued, "Mother Irene Gill took the wealth she was given, not physical wealth but spiritual, and thought so creatively to bring to life her vision of educating young women and giving them the credentials necessary to become effective transformers of society... Mother Irene and those Ursuline Sisters and other visionary people who followed sought to set in motion an educational endeavor that would gather others who would constantly be reading the times and responding to the needs of others who came into the family of the College."

Later, as the liturgy concluded, Cardinal Egan rose to offer his own appreciation for the Ursulines. "Since the Ursulines came to the United States, guided by the wonderful example and prayer of Saint Angela Merici, everywhere they've been they've left an example of faith and nobility that is simply outstanding... To the faculty, to the



Angela Valitutto SAS'00, Kathryn Tyranski SAS'06, and Jennifer Ludwig SAS'05 led the procession through the Cathedral.

benefactors, to the staff, to the students of the College, to all of you here this afternoon, I hope we will keep our eyes ever on the inspiration that made the wonder of The College of New Rochelle possible – women who turned their lives over to serve the poorest of the poor...”

Filing out of the Cathedral as “Finale” by Louis Vierne was played on the organ, members of the College Community soon left the towering spires of the Cathedral behind as they made their way down 50th Street to the Waldorf=Astoria, where a fabulous reception awaited them. With the brilliant crystal chandeliers illuminating the Grand Ballroom and the sounds of the string quartet filling the room, faculty, staff, students, alumnae/i, and friends enjoyed a lovely repast of tea sandwiches, scones, and pastries.

Yet all too soon, the afternoon, and with it the celebration of the College’s first century, drew to a close, and as guests departing the Waldorf beneath the setting sun looked up to see the Empire State Building shining blue and white, a sense of anticipation could be felt, anticipation for the second century of The College of New Rochelle yet to come.

A 1989 graduate of the School of Arts & Sciences, Lenore Boytim Carpinelli is managing editor of Quarterly and Associate Director in the College’s Office of Communications.



The magnificent Rose Window and the enormous 7,300 pipe organ added to the grandeur of the Cathedral, as did the beautiful voices of the Cathedral’s choir.

If you would like to order a DVD of the College’s Centennial Liturgy of Thanksgiving at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, you may fax your request to John Knetge, Electronic Media Tech, Inc., at 516-541-9718; the cost is \$14.95, plus \$5 for shipping; please allow one to two weeks for delivery; for further information, please call 516-679-0340.

From the 1920s well into the 1950s, students in the Mission Club raised funds and collected and made items to be donated to Ursuline and other missions, and in fact, CNR led the area's Catholic colleges in fundraising for many years.



Celebrating the Tradition of Education for Service

BY DR. JAMES T. SCHLEIFER

THE STORY OF THE COLLEGE OF NEW ROCHELLE CANNOT REALLY BE SEPARATED FROM THE THEME OF EDUCATION FOR SERVICE. SIMPLY LOOKING AT THE WORK OF THE FOUR SCHOOLS OF THE COLLEGE MAKES THAT CLEAR.

In large part the initial impetus of The College of New Rochelle arose from Mother Irene Gill's experience during the

late nineteenth century in training young women (and men) to teach in New York City schools. From the beginning the College has also insisted that perhaps the best possible preparation for the service professions and for any other careers is thorough grounding in the liberal arts. And over the past one hundred years, the Schools of the College have worked hard to be of particular service to parts of the wider community that have traditionally been overlooked or underserved by American higher education: women, adults, and minorities.

That work of broadening educational opportunities has been an especially powerful effort to serve, an effort not always understood or appreciated by some in the wider community.

As a women's college, The College of New Rochelle over the decades has produced an extraordinary number of graduates in the service professions. Indeed, during the early years, a heavy majority of those coming out of the College into the world of work became teachers, social workers, and librarians. During much of the twentieth century, these were particular paths of service often chosen by college-educated women, including those graduating from women's colleges.

Over the years the School of Arts and Sciences has turned out thousands of graduates whose career commitment was to the service professions, especially to teaching. Graduates of the School of New Resources are also heavily drawn to those fields. The cornerstone of the Graduate School has, for over 30 years, been the preparation of professionals in the field of education. And the School of Nursing, founded over 25 years ago, prepares women and men for service in nursing and other health professions.

But the sense of service at The College of New Rochelle goes beyond a

review of the Schools and the curriculum. Much of the tradition flows from the commitment, the efforts, and the sacrifices of the Ursulines over the years. In the sixteenth century, the Order of St. Ursula began by doing what we would call social work among the most vulnerable and abused inhabitants of the city of Brescia in Italy. Even after the education of young women became the focus of Ursuline labor, the Order of St. Ursula insisted on providing schools for the poor alongside boarding schools for the well-to-do. Four hundred years later, at a General Chapter meeting of the Roman Union of the Ursulines in 1938, the Order, encouraged by the wider movement of Catholic Action, reiterated and reaffirmed its commitment to the "principles of social justice and charity," asserting that all students taught by Ursulines should be led toward a sense of social justice and encouraged to serve. The task was to form each student's social conscience and to prepare each student to take responsibility for fostering justice in the world. This was an ambitious undertaking!

The Ursuline motto *serviam*, meaning "I will serve," was brought forward once again, and over the years this pledge of service has been upheld and exemplified by many relatively unsung



For the last several years students have participated in the Plunge during Spring Break, traveling to impoverished areas in the United States to be of service to those in need. This year, in conjunction with the College's Centennial Service Project, students traveled to Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico, where they aided people in those border towns in a variety of ways, including by providing important health information, as Sister Margaret Manganga SN'05 is pictured doing here.

efforts of members of the College Community, especially the students. As early as the 1920s, for example, a Mission Club was formed by students to raise money for international and "home" missions. For the past few years, on each Founder's Day, the College has gathered to honor one student from each of the four Schools chosen to receive the Serviam Award, presented by the Ursuline Institute. The record of student involvement recognized on those occasions has been remarkable. More recently, in April, the entire College responded to a Community Service Day as part of the Centennial celebration. This kind of activity, carried on largely anonymously year after year, is perhaps the strongest testimony to what education for service means at The College of New Rochelle.

So since the earliest days of the College, education for service, as expressed through preparation for the service professions, through work toward social justice, and through direct social service, has been an essential part of our mission, and it continues to be today.



During Community Service Day in April, members of the College Community performed a variety of service activities in New Rochelle, Manhattan, and in the Bronx. Rachel Rivera from the SNR Co-Op City Campus is seen here tutoring a Spanish-speaking student in English at the Mercy Center.

Dr. James Schleifer is the Dean of Gill Library and a Professor of History at the College. The author of The College of New Rochelle: An Extraordinary Story, he is currently writing an in-depth history of the College.



With Charity Burning in Their Hearts

*Flipping
through the
alumnae/i directory,
the cavalcade of those who
have devoted themselves, both
professionally and voluntarily, to service
seems endless. This is no surprise at a College
where service has been its cornerstone since
its founding a century ago. Here are
eight of those alumnae/i.*

Barbara Krajewski SN'98

Turning in her wings may have been Barbara Krajewski's toughest decision in nursing.

After eight intense years on Westchester Medical Center's helicopter rescue team, Barbara was "in shock" when suddenly offered a new post in orthopedic trauma there. But as you'd expect from someone who runs triathlons and climbs Mount Rainier "for fun," any new challenge was impossible to turn down.

Joining the Valhalla hospital 18 years ago, Barbara moved to the burn unit, then to high-risk labor/delivery – for multiple births and mothers-to-be with complications such as heart disease or drug abuse. "You name it and we handled it," the White Plains resident recalls. "I got to resuscitate and care for newborns, and got some valuable operating room experience."

But when Barbara heard through the grapevine about the planned "Stat Flight" rescue helicopter, she was hungry for another chance to grow. Tracking down the people in charge, "I talked my way onto the team. I asked them, 'Who else do you have who has burn-unit experience and can also comfortably deliver a baby?'"

When the center gets a Stat Flight call, typically to a serious auto accident, two nurses hop aboard the helicopter, swoop in, and stabilize the patient for transport back to Valhalla – the only Level 1 trauma center between Albany and the Bronx.

They might also fly in to help care for the injured at a smaller hospital that finds itself overwhelmed with multiple casualties. "We had two little boys who had stopped breathing after a car crash, and our quick response really made a difference."

While zipping around on Stat Flight between 1992 and 1999, Barbara finished a BS in nursing and earned her

Photo by Kathy Gardner provided courtesy of The Journal News.



The tougher the situation, "the happier I am taking care of them. I find it very intense, requiring all of my focus. It's almost like detective work, figuring out their problems and working to make them better. It forces you to learn."

master's at CNR (where she also teaches). Now, as part of the center's orthopedic trauma team, she works mostly with victims of falls, car wrecks, sports injuries, and other accidents. "One man was hit in the back by a log."

Barbara stabilizes patients and prepares them for surgery, then handles post-op follow-up and troubleshooting.

She also tries to provide whatever comfort and information she can to patients and families facing paraplegia or other serious conditions.

The tougher the situation, "the happier I am taking care of them. I find it very intense, requiring all of my focus. It's almost like detective work, figuring

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With Charity

(Barbara Krajewski continued from page 11)

out their problems and working to make them better. It forces you to learn.”

Even post-Stat Flight, Barbara’s career hardly lacks for adventure. As a volunteer for the federal Disaster Medical Assistance Team, she was called in recently on an emergency mission when the U.S. territory of Guam faced a sudden epidemic of premature births.

“They have just one hospital, with only four neo-natal beds. But for some reason, maybe something in the water, they were dealing with 24 of these births. We were there for two weeks last winter helping stabilize all these tiny, tiny preemies to get them feeding and growing. I felt very privileged to serve my country,” Barbara says, adding that she also served on a disaster team at Ground Zero after 9/11, treating rescue personnel.

It all seems like a long way from Barbara’s childhood in quiet Orange County, where her Polish ancestors came to grow onions. Her father was a nurse, “and I just always thought that would be a great idea.” She still does and says that job stress really isn’t a problem.

And neither is a little physical stress. To unwind in her free time, Barbara might enjoy a 2.4-mile swim, followed by a 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run – all part of the grueling Ironman triathlons she doggedly trains for. Fresh from her second competition (cutting her total time below 16 hours in Idaho last June), Barbara plans some “time off” for a relaxing climb up Tanzania’s Mount Kilimanjaro.

But there’s another, much shorter trek she’s also awaiting with pride. At just 5K it’ll be a jog around the block for Barbara, but a milestone for the woman running beside her – a car-wreck victim who could barely move or talk when brought to the medical center just one year ago.

“Our goal was to get her to the point where she could go for rehab, and along the way I also built a rapport with her family, who were understandably very worried, very needy for information.”

Now, Barbara reports, her former patient is driving a car and returning to work. She was able to walk the 5K this summer, “and next year we’re going to run the race together. I’m very excited.” ■



Robert Carmona SNR ’79

Y oung Robert Carmona got his job training on the streets, where his vocational skills nearly earned him five years behind bars. But when offered one last chance, he chose a new career path – and since then has helped thousands of men and women take that same step forward.

Today, Robert is president and chief executive officer of STRIVE, an employment training organization so successful it has spread from New York to 18 other U.S. cities plus London, and been glowingly featured on CBS’ “60 Minutes.”

“Our typical clients,” Robert says, “are single mothers looking to get off welfare, or men like me who have had problems with the law.” That’s why STRIVE hires staffers who know first-hand about homelessness, drugs, and desperation, and why Robert fit right in as founding CEO back in 1986.

An East Harlem native whose dad was in the Merchant Marines, Robert recalls that even before his parents separated, “we could count on one hand the times that we saw him.” Looking for his role models out on the streets, Robert was doing drugs and dealing by age 14. A smart kid – “probably too smart for my own good” – he did go to community college, but mainly so he could deal at the student union.

Robert served a few months in jail here and there, but after robbing a liquor store in 1976 he was hit with five years’ hard time. Or, the court offered, he could do two years instead at Daytop Village, a drug-treatment and counseling community.

Although Robert chose Daytop, he admits it was with no intention of changing. “But what finally got to me was my first daughter,” born out of wedlock before he was sent away. Robert’s peers at Daytop “were always beating me up about her, about what kind of life she would have with me for a father. That’s what really caught my attention.”

CNR, meanwhile, had opened a small extension of its South Bronx Campus in the same midtown Manhattan building where Daytop has offices. “So a few of us

thought, why sit up here watching TV – let's go down two floors and go to college." While earning his BA in liberal arts, Robert began doing counseling work, then earned a master's in social work administration at Columbia University.

Gaining experience with United Way and City Volunteer Corps, he applied for CEO with a new, privately funded job-training program in Harlem. "They had already finished interviews but said, 'OK, let's look at one more guy.'"

At STRIVE, Robert's troubled past was a positive. "Poor people," he believes, "rely more on intuition than words. When you're talking to them, what they're keying into is, 'Does he really care about me?' Your degrees are not important, it's what you've gone through and whether you're telling them the truth."

STRIVE successfully places more than 4,000 clients nationally in jobs each year. "We don't guarantee anybody a job, and anyone who does is lying. But we do guarantee you an interview, and then it's up to you."

What makes STRIVE's approach so effective? "When we started," Robert explains, "most job programs were skill-based; you learned typing or something like that. But they were giving these skills to someone who had no understanding of the interpersonal skills that are just as important in the world of work." STRIVE, Robert says, emphasizes these "soft skills" along with the hard.

"Job interviews, especially, are not just about your skills. The interviewer is thinking, 'Can I live with this guy for 40 hours a week?' That's why we tell people, 'Never underestimate the power of a smile.' In our community we have a tough-guy, game-face posture – but that doesn't work below 96th Street."

And because "once you get a job, the challenges you've been facing all your life do not magically go away," Robert says STRIVE is strong on follow-up with its grads. "The program only takes four weeks, but we are on your case for years."

STRIVE's success rate, he says, is about two-thirds. "We lose some people right at the start, when we lay out just what we expect from them." And then there are those who do find a job, only to decide that going to work every day "is just not for them. They'd still rather be out hustling."

Robert now has two grown daughters and lives in Teaneck, NJ with his long-time wife, Christine. Inspired by his own experiences, Robert runs STRIVE workshops on responsible parenting, as featured this summer in *People* magazine. "Having a baby," he emphasizes, "doesn't make you a man."

While proud of STRIVE grads who have gone on to big success in business or law, Robert insists that "the real heroes are the everyday grunts who get up, go to work, and support their kids. The woman you don't see because she's up at 5 to get to her job, and is still making sure her children have clean clothes and help for their homework."

These people, he says, "should be the real heroes in our community, not the sports star or the rap star." ■

Nancy O'Malley '69

Rattling around her suddenly quiet home after the kids were grown and gone, Nancy O'Malley hit on a cure for empty-nest syndrome.

Since signing up as an emergency foster mom, the Boston-area English teacher has cared for more than 30 teenage girls over the past two years – girls who might otherwise be spending the night at a cheerless women's shelter.

"My role is to provide a safe and good home, a refuge, a sanctuary. The sad fact is, most of these girls have been abused – sexually, physically, emotionally. It's pretty grim."

Although Nancy just hosted a girl from Bosnia, most of her visitors are Hispanic in background, from the nearby Chelsea area. Nancy doesn't speak Spanish ("a real failing of mine," she admits with a laugh) but the teens usually know enough English to help her along.

Nancy's own daughter Elisa is from Central America, adopted in 1980 when she was just two. With a five-year-old son from a brief marriage, Nancy learned that El Salvador was one country that would let a single parent adopt. "And with a war going on, their orphanages were full. I felt this would not only enrich my family but also help fill a need."

Plagued by lack of food and medical care, Elisa could barely walk when she was flown to Boston. "But she was such a gritty little survivor that she began eating and thriving right from the start," Nancy says with pride. "It's clear that destiny and God were watching out for us, and she has been such a boon to Matthew and me."

Nancy's town of Winthrop "is a great place, but it wasn't very multicultural back then. People would call Matthew my 'natural' child, and I had to point out that Elisa was also my child in a very natural way. I would simply tell people that Matthew was home-grown and Elisa was imported."

Elisa is now a petty officer in the Navy, while Matthew

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Nancy O'Malley with a rescued mare and student Ying Ying at Winslow Farm Sanctuary in Massachusetts.

With Charity

(Nancy O'Malley continued from page 13)

teaches computers to inner-city children. "I've been very lucky," Nancy explains. "I have such a great family that I had a sense of wanting to give back." And even with three dogs and two cats, "I just didn't like the empty nest."

So Nancy trained with the state Department of Social Services (DSS) as an emergency foster parent for teenage girls – a critical need because many foster families opt to care for young children. A one-month stay is typical, although some of Nancy's girls visit just a night or two and others up to six months.

Isn't it tough to say goodbye so often? "It's hard, but I know they're headed to a better place – a good group home or adoptive family, or a program to prepare for independent living. You don't want

them to become too emotionally dependent on you. One time I did take in a younger child, a five-year-old boy, for nine months, and it was so much harder to say goodbye."

Nancy emphasizes that if she can do it, you too can help a child in need. "It's easier than you think – I'm no Betty Crocker or traditional stay-at-home mom.

"You can be selective, set the criteria on who you'll take in, and you can always say 'no' when you're going to be away or too busy." Teenagers also don't require the round-the-clock supervision of a younger child.

And after 34 years of teaching, Nancy knows her teens. Since 1992 the Pittsfield, Massachusetts, native has taught at Boston Latin, America's oldest public school. "Emerson went here, Ben Franklin, Sam Adams," Nancy says, "so

there's a very inspiring sense of history."

Most Sundays, Nancy rounds up a few of her Boston Latin students for volunteer work at an animal refuge out in the country. She also is proud of founding a summer creative-writing program, now in its 15th year, for budding young authors citywide. She also teaches night and summer education courses at UMass-Boston, where the writing program is held.

Nancy herself was drawn to writing at an early age, and did some reporting for the local newspaper while studying English at CNR. She considered a journalism career but went into teaching when Harvard's education school beckoned. "Two roads converged in the woods, and I chose the one that offered me the money," she laughs. "So I've had a really good career teaching writing – the best of both worlds." ■

Janette Fenton GS'94

As a professional art therapist, Janette Fenton gives troubled patients the tools to confront their emotions. Faced with personal loss, she found a way to transform her own grief and frustration into a positive force.

Since earning her master's at CNR, Janette has worked with patients of all ages, from addicts and anorexics to the chronically mentally ill. After nine years with Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, CT, she currently counsels the victims of life-threatening illness, and their families, at the Center for Hope in Darien, as well as eating-disorder patients at the Renfrew clinic.

Armed with little more than markers and sketchpads, some Play-Doh or collage materials, Janette also brings to each session a knack for gaining trust. When unlocking the door to a patient's inner mind, discussing a drawing can be less threatening, and more revealing, than blunt questions. "The piece of paper provides a little emotional distancing," she says. "They can talk first about the person in their picture, and then about themselves."

Ask Janette to talk about herself and she will recount growing up in Brooklyn, then making New Canaan her home 37 years ago. She had already lost one young daughter, Meredith, to cystic fibrosis when her youngest son, Tony, was born with the disease. "He had been doing great," she says, but as a teen Tony developed severe liver problems – and went on the wait-list for a transplant that would never come.

"It was very frustrating to be waiting like that," says Janette. "I just went to mass and kept praying, praying that the anger would turn to something constructive." It was after Tony passed away, she recalls, that "we discovered a letter in his room, saying he would like to do a bike tour to raise money for CF research."

Moved to fulfill that wish, Janette helped organize the annual Tony Fenton Bike Tour in Westport; 16 years later it's the CF Foundation's biggest one-day Connecticut fundraiser. "I'd like to see this kind of event in other states," she says, lamenting that cystic fibrosis does not get a lot of media attention.

As she headed back to college in mid-life, thinking she might be an art teacher or counselor, Janette had never even heard of art therapy as a career. But while researching how she might pull together her interests in art and psychology, she ran across a CNR listing for just such a major.

The artwork Janette assigns in therapy is quick and simple, no talent required. "What I see in the drawing is not nearly as important as what the patients come to see about themselves," she explains.

"With eating disorders we focus on body image and feelings. With any addiction we might ask patients to draw a challenge in their life, or depict their road to recovery. If someone draws themselves hanging off a rickety, crumbling little bridge with sharks circling below, we know they are struggling.

"I might ask, 'What is your family like,' and even if patients are just making clay balls and squiggles we can see who is important, how close they are, and ask if something is getting in the way of their relationships."

The group dynamic is a crucial plus in therapy, Janette has found. "You have people focusing in on the same thing from different angles, and they'll often see something in each other's work." Janette can also alert doctors if a patient is suddenly becoming "more or less cohesive" on new medication.

Along with her work for CF, the Red Cross, and organ-donation awareness, Janette also led the founding of the New Canaan

Sumitra Barbara Phongsathorn SAS'72



Sumitra's Phongsathorn's father had a specific career plan for each of his 11 children. But after journeying halfway around the world to study at CNR, the young Thai native had a few ideas of her own, and came home to devote her life to Ursuline education.

Because she always wanted to be a teacher, dad envisioned Sumitra opening a profitable little nursery school. But as she clearly told him, "I could not make education a business. My brothers and sisters are mostly in business, so I'm the odd one," she laughs.

Instead she said yes when recruited by Mater Dei, the Ursuline school she had attended throughout her youth. Despite a noble tradition, the K-12 school was in danger of downsizing because it

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Society for the Arts, including the restoration of a historic carriage barn for its events, in the 1970s. She currently is planning to earn a Ph.D., spend more time with her grandchildren, and do more of her own painting, writing, and research.

She also sees clients through her own private practice. "Art therapy," she points out, "can play a role in schools, businesses, or for individuals who are working through difficult decisions or issues – marital stress, depression, anxiety, grief, or loss..."

"I mean, whose life isn't complicated? We might look at someone and say, 'So-and-so seems so happy,' but I don't know anyone who doesn't have some gosh-darn thing they're dealing with in life." ■

"It was very frustrating to be waiting like that. I just went to mass and kept praying, praying that the anger would turn to something constructive." It was after Tony passed away, she recalls, that "we discovered a letter in his room, saying he would like to do a bike tour to raise money for CF research."



Roberta Apuzzo SNR '92

In 30 years as a hairdresser, Roberta Apuzzo developed some considerable listening skills. Seeking a meaningful new way to put those skills to work, she traded cutting and curling for counseling and cooking.

As executive director of Community Service Associates (CSA) Inc. since 1996, Roberta handles the Mount Vernon charity's fund-raising, grant-writing, outreach and assistance programs – most notably the 200-plus meals it dishes up daily at the Sacred Heart Church social center.

"I think Mother Teresa said it: 'You never know what a simple smile can do.' So even if we can make people feel good for a minute or two... And sometimes," Roberta admits, "that's all we can do."

When CSA incorporated in 1989 it was serving 11,000 meals a year. Now, with a hot breakfast/bag lunch program and expanded dinner service, "we're up to more than 70,000." That might not scare McDonald's, but it's impressive considering Roberta, her assistant, and a chef are CSA's only paid employees.

Born and raised in the Bronx, Roberta was already cutting hair for \$8 a day as she graduated high school. "My father had to work very hard to send me to Catholic school, and I guess that helped shape my strong work ethic."

Roberta kept at her hairdressing through marriage and three children, but felt there was something else out there waiting for her to do. Returning to school at age 46, she earned a psychology degree from CNR in 1992.

"There were some very tough years," Roberta recalls. "I was getting a divorce, my mother had a stroke, but I didn't give up

With Charity

(Sumitra Barbara Phongsathorn continued from page 15)

was so short on Ursuline administrative staff at that time.

"Are you crazy?" she says friends and family first wondered, because school pay was so low. But Sumitra happily found her niche as administrator for Mater Dei's younger grades, and in 1989 was named its first lay principal.

In her 11 years at the helm of Mater Dei, Sumitra was able to cut class size and further enhance its reputation for excellence – 800 parental applications pour in each year for its 120 kindergarten slots. And three years ago Sumitra took on a newly created post as coordinator of Ursuline education, working not just with Mater Dei staff but with schools across Thailand.

Although she's now a nationally rec-

ognized education leader, as a new principal Sumitra first harbored doubts she was up to the job.

"I was so protected as a child that I never had those wild teen years – so I wondered if I could relate to the school's older students. In my first year I did such a bad job because I was trying to fill the strict and stern image. But I finally said, 'You just have to be yourself.'" She's proud of her reputation for knowing the students and being able to talk to parents. "I just tried to listen, and not be so thick."

She also developed a talent for fund-raising, a never-ending chore because, along with its own needs, Mater Dei helps schools in poor rural areas. "We are trying to close the gap between rich and poor, and our parents and alumnae strongly support our efforts."

Thailand is 96 percent Buddhist, so even at a school like Mater Dei only a third of the 1,900 students (all girls since 1964) are Catholic. But along with academics, Sumitra says Ursuline values are a vital part of growing up at Mater Dei. "You develop your intellect to serve society, to love and forgive other people. Our mission is to produce good leaders, and the credit for this should be given to the sisters."

Sumitra hopes Mater Dei can serve a broader cross-section of Thai society. "I am not Mother Teresa; I work with well-to-do children in the most developed part of our country. But we can help these girls learn how to help others. Because we are so fortunate, service to others is very important."

That's why Mater Dei students are sent out to work with rural children –

on school or work. That degree was so important – I wanted my kids to be proud of me.”

After some bad experiences at a college in Florida, she found that she “really liked that the School of New Resources was for adults. I wanted a school that would understand the things going on in my life.”

Roberta’s first new job was at a runaway/homeless youth program in Valhalla. When that suddenly shut down in 1994, she heard a soup kitchen in Mount Vernon was looking for a social worker – and after two years with CSA, when the director left to run for mayor, Roberta found herself running the show.

One of the first programs she pulled together was a support group for women. “It was an incredible learning experience for me. Here were these people who really loved their kids but had very few resources to pull themselves out of where they were.” Finding her own resources limited as well, Roberta managed to scrape up tutoring, nutrition and art classes, legal aid, and gym time.

“And because I was a hairdresser I was even able to give some of them makeovers!”

Along with her CSA work, civic involvement and a radio show on WVOX, Roberta runs a group for women grappling with divorce; she’s also writing “a practical and emotional guide” to the subject. “Divorce is not an event,” she maintains, “it’s a very difficult ongoing process. You have to be able to turn your anger around.” Her children were still small when she divorced, “so I’ve had a lot of experience raising kids outside the two-parent family.”

CSA’s yearly budget is just \$800,000, including in-kind donations. For Roberta, that means “fundraising is always my

“There were some very tough years. I was getting a divorce, my mother had a stroke, but I didn’t give up on school or work. That degree was so important – I wanted my kids to be proud of me.”

biggest challenge, spreading the word about what we’re doing.” Fortunately she has more than 700 “terrific” volunteers, including groups from local schools, colleges, and congregations who help out in the kitchen.

Along with meals for the working poor, the disabled, and those just down on their luck, Roberta says she also tries to nourish the soul, with counseling and activities that are strong on the arts. One talented participant who has gotten his life back together is now attending CNR and working with kids in a New York City arts program. Two former drug abusers Roberta has counseled also are studying at CNR. “One girl is going into the ministry; that’s how much she has turned her life around.”

“Most of all,” Roberta says, “I think people need to see what we do and the importance of the work. The average person is only one paycheck away, you know. What if you lose your job or there’s a fire? You could be right here, eating with us.” ■

children so poor that without the opportunity for schooling, they might well be sold into prostitution by their own parents. “When you teach service and empathy,” Sumitra has found, “academic success just seems to follow.”

With an upbringing so sheltered that “I never even crossed the street on my own,” Sumitra credits her father for urging her not to give up when she got cold feet about coming to CNR. Speaking of cold, Sumitra was lucky that her older sister had just completed four years at the school. When Sumitra first arrived in 1968, she found a big trunk of warm clothing her sibling had left her for New Rochelle’s icy winters.

While her ear for English was good, her taste buds took time adjusting to the school cafeteria. “I hated the smell of

cheese, spaghetti, roast beef. But by the third year I was ordering extra cheese on my pizza.”

Sumitra studied psychology and child development at CNR, but the real eye-opener was her philosophy courses. “It was the first time I was encouraged to ask questions. I was not so independent in my thinking, and I was reluctant at first.”

In Thailand, “Most of our teachers never have this experience – being challenged to question and think.” That’s why, she says, “We still concentrate too much on standing in front of class and ‘giving’ people knowledge. I would like to see our schools be more humane, reaching out to more people, stimulating them to grow in many possible ways.” ■

“I am not Mother Teresa; I work with well-to-do children in the most developed part of our country. But we can help these girls learn how to help others. Because we are so fortunate, service to others is very important.”



Jeanine Scholl SN'01

"It's amazing how naive I was back in 1991, and how much the Navy has taught me – about nursing and about people."

After four fulfilling years in the Navy, Jeanine Scholl had signed up to rejoin as an officer and was about to report for duty – when America was attacked on 9/11.

"My family was like, 'You're not going, you're not going, you're not going,'" recalls Jeanine, a lieutenant junior grade in the Navy Nursing Corps. "My mom was really getting emotional, because here I am her only daughter, and her only son is an NYPD police officer."

Still, mom bravely remained supportive, "because that's the kind of woman she is. And my dad said, 'Well, I've never been able to change your mind about anything else.'" But it might have been an even tougher sell if the Scholls had known their daughter would be in a war zone just 18 months later.

Assigned to cardiology at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, Jeanine noticed on some paperwork that she

also was attached to the 1st Force Service Support Group – which provides medical support to the Marines. Assured at first that this was "no big deal," Jeanine soon learned she'd be shipping out to the Middle East if the U.S. went to war in Iraq.

The rumors started flying around Christmas of 2002, and the call came for real in February. "By then I was ready to get my game face on and get going, rather than being on an emotional roller-coaster all the time."

Flying into Kuwait, Jeanine's company was bused to Camp Coyote – little more than a patch of desert with a few tents, a sand wall, and rats and snakes for company. Within 12 hours the company had its surgical unit – including OR, ER and ICU – up and ready for action.

Even before war broke out, "we were so busy. We did lots of training, mass-casualty drills, and every night the air-raid sirens would go off, so there you were at three in the morning grabbing your gas mask and running to a bunker. Anxiety was very high in general because we didn't know when the war might start."

Less than 24 hours after the invasion began, the casualties came streaming in – blast wounds and amputations, shrapnel, burns, and cuts. The medics' toughest problem was not the daytime heat but keeping the injured warm during near-freezing nights. But overall, Jeanine says, "We were ready, and we did very well."

During her five-month stint, "I lived in a tent with 25 other women – doctors, nurses, dentists – and we became like sisters. We fought, we laughed, we cried, we were together 24 hours a day."

Though Porta-Potties, thankfully, were on hand, there were no showers or hot meals during that first month at Camp Coyote. But the comfort Jeanine missed most was just being able to talk with friends and family back home. "In a situation like that, what you just want

to hear most is your parents' voices."

Not that she had always bothered to listen. The Bronx native admits she was a "rebellious" teen who majored mostly in cutting class. But when brother Ricky enlisted in the Navy, his 19-year-old sister decided to follow along.

Nursing, she says, "just kind of fell into my lap." Scoring high on intake exams, she was offered a position as a hospital corpsman, something like an EMT. "I had the biggest fear of blood and needles – but Ricky was an EMT, so I said, 'If he can do it, so can I.'"

Jeanine's first hitch included time at a clinic in Scotland, where she broadened her skills before leaving the Navy in 1995 to rejoin her family and finish a liberal arts BA. Hanging out with the nurses while doing some administrative work at a hospital in Connecticut, she once again found herself saying, "If they can do it, so can I," and enrolled at CNR to earn her nursing degree before rejoining the Navy.

With the U.S. invasion complete and Camp Coyote quiet, Jeanine was sent back to San Diego in June 2003. Her latest assignment: the Far East. "My boyfriend Jerry [a Navy nurse] always wanted to go to Japan, so we were able to get joint orders to a medical center south of Tokyo."

While some civilians might envision a faceless bureaucracy, Jeanine finds the Navy "is really a very small, intimate place. The people I served with in Kuwait will always be family."

"My work with the hospital corpsmen is especially gratifying. I'm preparing these young men and women for when they go out there with the Marines, putting their lives on the line. I was in their position once, so I know just how dumb I was when I started, and just how smart I thought I was."

"It's amazing," Jeanine reflects, "how naive I was back in 1991, and how much the Navy has taught me – about nursing and about people." ■

Bernadette Ricco GS'89

"There are people who really don't believe in gifted/talented education. I respond with data – the suicides, the substance abuse, the criminal careers that are over-represented among the gifted and talented. These problems do not take care of themselves."

In the famed fictional town of Lake Wobegone, where all the children are above average, they might all do just fine on their own.

But in a real-world school system, the brightest young minds have special needs that might otherwise go ignored – without an advocate like Bernadette Ricco, district specialist for K-8 gifted/talented education in Norwood, NJ.

While "thrilled" to look back on how her own local program has flourished since she started out, as a nation, says Bernadette, "we still are not doing enough for these children.

"I know the focus should be on mainstream students and those who need remedial support, but the reality is you have these other children who are not learning and growing. Even by age 8 some are bored and disengaging."

When many schools were only just opening their eyes to this need, Bernadette was fresh out of college and knew gifted/talented was where she wanted to be. In 1980 she inherited Norwood's program from Susan Baum, a pioneer in the field who was moving on to doctoral work (and eventually to CNR's Graduate School as Professor of Gifted Education).

"I knew I had big shoes to fill," she says, "and those first few years were tough." Because her sessions were "ungraded environments," Bernadette had to find other incentives to motivate her students. "I needed to learn how to collaborate with the children, and also with some 40 regular classroom teachers – and here I was, the youngest person on the staff! You learn to communicate the credibility of your passion and commitment."

That commitment has made Bernadette a respected regional program coordinator and speaker, as well as the New

Jersey Association for Gifted Children's 2004 Educator of the Year.

"Students at the higher end of the group," she explains, "need a faster pace, a broader, deeper, more rigorous approach. They can engage in the same topics but need more independence, more chance to use abstract ideas in exciting ways." Some of this can take place in the regular classroom, "but ultimately you have to let these children come together with their peers to tackle these additional challenges."

And this peer interaction may be the most crucial facet of gifted/talented activities. "These kids have emotional as well as academic needs. They need to see that there are other kids like them, they need the chance to share their work, to talk about what it's like to be gifted."

Bernadette still remembers Mr. Egan, the fourth-grade teacher who first gave her these opportunities, "and I know for me it was a life-changing experience. Breaking out of the mold, feeling that I belonged. It opened up my world, and that drives my work today."

Without support and challenge, gifted students can drag through school frustrated and under-performing. But because they rarely are flat-out failing, their struggles may not register on adults' radar screens.

"There are people who really don't believe in gifted/talented education. I respond with data – the suicides, the substance abuse, the criminal careers that are over-represented among the gifted and talented. These problems do not take care of themselves."

When Bernadette was ready to earn her master's in 1988, she attended a CNR preview session in Rockland County. "And who should step out to lead the meeting but Dr. Baum. When I



saw her, I knew I was in the right place!

"What Susan's strength brought to me was the importance of taking a stand, of advocating for students. And her flexibility comes through in my own work with students and teachers – one size does not fit all when it comes to motivating and communicating."

It's also crucial to communicate with parents, including those whose children have not been picked for gifted/talented.

"The idea that every child is gifted is simple baloney. Everyone fits somewhere along the continuum, and it's important to help parents realize we have programs and services to fit every student. I think sometimes they just want to know that we notice and value their child."

The Bergenfield resident, divorced since 1995, has two children of her own, Kevin, 14, and David, 12. "I find my teaching informs my parenting and my parenting informs my teaching. I love the synergy of it. I'm just one of those lucky people who loves what they do for a living."

But is she as pleased with society's commitment to its gifted and talented? "I wish I could say that we are moving ahead as a nation, but I just don't feel we put enough value on children or public education in general. I do think we have the power to make improvements in our own backyard, and in this way we can spread change." ■

Gary Rockfield is a free-lance writer/editor who frequently reports on education and business-related issues, as well as unique personalities from all walks of life. Formerly an award-winning newspaper editor, he lives in Brewster, NY.



One of the many orphans who receive services in Ekangala, South Africa from CMMB's Choose to Care program.

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FOR CMMB/SACBC BY ADRIAAN BACKER.

The Heart of Africa: A Deeper Look at *Choose to Care*

While working at Catholic Medical Mission Board, Margaret Peterson SAS'00 traveled to South Africa where she witnessed firsthand the ravages of the AIDS epidemic. Here Margaret shares her heart-wrenching revelations about a crisis the sheer magnitude of which most can barely comprehend.

BY MARGARET PETERSON SAS'00

Orange Farm

Somewhere along the expanse of red gravel on which we traveled en route to a slum village in South Africa, Father Guido, director of one of more than 70 AIDS programs Catholic Medical Mission Board supports in southern Africa, turned to me and said: "Last year was a bad year. More than 60 of our 200 home-based care patients died. This week alone we buried five. Ah, shame." The expression "shame," I would soon learn, is frequently used in South Africa to convey a wide range of emotions – from sadness and shock, to disgust and, in this case, absolute tragedy. It is a colloquialism patented by a people who are quite accustomed to the company of death, of which Father Guido, though not African-born, is no exception.

Part of CMMB's *Choose to Care* pro-

gram family, Father Guido is one of three priests who run an orphan and home-care program for AIDS sufferers in Orange Farm, a slum located an hour outside of Johannesburg. Established four years ago through the Diocese of Johannesburg, the program provides food, counseling, education, and home-based care to more than 600 people, including children who are or will soon become AIDS orphans.

As I walked with Father Guido through Orange Farm, down garbage-strewn paths and past houses of tin, members of the community welcomed him warmly. Children smiled and waved, and adults tipped their heads. He has been a presence in South Africa since 1980, well before many knew of the HIV/AIDS pandemic that would befall the country. Father Guido believes

that the majority of Westerners fail to understand the magnitude of the crisis.

"There are communities here where as many as 20 percent of the population has AIDS," he said. "This program started with 900 patients and now there are 600. Many of the patients have died from tuberculosis. Even with available medicines, they couldn't take them because they had no food."

With the help of nearly 80 volunteers, Father Guido serves the immediate needs of food and shelter for these orphaned children. In addition, they attempt to provide the children with hope for a better future. "More than 75 percent of the people here in Orange Farm are unemployed," one of many post-apartheid tragedies he admitted, adding, "This is what leads to crime and prostitution, and contributes to the AIDS pandemic." Father Guido's program features an income-generating component, teaching such skills as sewing and basket weaving in an effort to provide alternatives. Children too young to provide for themselves are placed with families. Through support from faith-based organizations, Orange Farm is able to provide supplemental income for families who adopt.

Deep into the settlement, Father Guido introduced me to Justice, one of the community healthcare workers who helps keep the project running. When I met Justice, he was holding a one-year-old orphan in his arms who, for all my efforts, I could not coax into smiling. After our meeting, Justice and Father Guido took me to meet the women in charge of home-care services.

While the home-care workers were busy preparing food that was to become a much-needed meal for some of their bedridden patients, its aroma sifting through holes in the rusted walls, they explained the reality of their jobs.

"We clean them, we feed them, and try to ease their suffering," said one

community healthcare worker through Father Guido's translation, as she stirred the contents of a small pot. "But, most of these people have no family and we can't stay with them all day. Always when we leave, things get worse," she added.

She gave a chilling example of a critical woman in their care, who was raped repeatedly by intruders in the absence of the caregivers, "Here, in order to be seen in a clinic, you have to have (identification) papers, and most of these people have none." When I asked what the community healthcare workers gave to their most critical patients for pain she answered flatly, "Tylenol. That's all we have."

It's difficult not to be upset by the disproportionate quality of healthcare around the world. That anger loomed over me as we left the settlement but, hearing the caregivers' stories in many ways validated the need for organizations like CMMB, which work tirelessly to amend these inequities.

On our way back to his office, Father Guido spoke of other AIDS programs: "Most HIV/AIDS programs become orphan-care programs eventually, because the parents die and the children come to places like Orange Farm. Soon we will have more kids, so we will need another building to put them in," he said, looking across at the sole cement building that looks odd in a field of shabby tin. Shame, indeed.

Nazareth House

A curious, round face peered outside one of the doorways down the corridor. Seeing a great opportunity for a photo, I raised my camera, only to see the little face disappear. Pretty soon I was engaged in a challenging game of peek-a-boo with one of the many residents of Nazareth House, a hospice for children and adults living with HIV/AIDS. After allowing me to take his picture, he and three other little ones were taken away by a healthcare worker to be cleaned after a long day of playing outside. As I watched them go, I noticed several sores on their skin, the only telltale signs of illness, as they smiled and skipped down the hall.

"That's common," said Sister Teresa, who oversees the children's wing of the

hospice. "Usually when they develop skin infections, we have to keep them out of school to protect the other children."

At Nazareth House outside of Johannesburg, abandoned children are offered the best quality of life the hospice can provide. The site can accommodate 35 children, including 18 babies, while providing individual sleeping and bathing quarters, primary education, a library, television, and meals to each child.

"Some children are so sick when they're brought here that we don't think they'll make it until the next morning," said Sister Teresa, "but after a few days, you can see them gradually getting better, because they are receiving so much care and attention, and are in such a peaceful environment."

Nazareth House does not offer anti-retroviral medicines, a common course of treatment for people living with AIDS, and instead prefers a less invasive form of care that includes antibiotics, multivitamins, and a strong diet. "We don't want to spoil the time they have left with tests and needles," Sister Teresa explained. Their approach is validated by the results, as many children there have lived into their teens, defying the prognosis that they would not make it past age seven.

"The difficult part," Sister Teresa mentioned, wringing her hands, "is when their health wears thin." The walls of Nazareth House are covered with pictures drawn by children who have come and gone, and in the dining room there is a small shrine in honor of them.

"Since we started, 14 children have died," said Sister Teresa, "It's very hard on the other children to see them go, but at least I know that we were able to make them happy in the time they were here."

Near the end of my visit, I spoke with Sister Joan, who supervises the adult wing, Sister Mura, Superior, and Sister Teresa, together, and asked how they are able to cope with their own grief. A silence came over the room as they looked at each other with blank expressions. Then, Sister Joan spoke out: "Occasionally, after a hard day, we'll get together over a cup of tea and talk to one another. To be honest, there



The program at Orange Farm, a slum outside of Johannesburg, provides food, counseling, education, and home-based care to more than 600 people, including children who are or will soon become AIDS orphans.

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FOR CMMB BY MARGARET PETERSON.

simply isn't time. We have too much work to do."

In Orange Farm, Father Guido and I left the other community healthcare workers just in time to catch a protest march. Community members were wearing black T-shirts and waving banners, trying to raise awareness about the problems that plague their community. Even in protest, whenever I caught someone's eye they would offer a sincere smile. "That is Africa," Father Guido said, watching the participants chant and move in unison down the road. "They just keep marching."

A freelance writer, Margaret Peterson earned a bachelor's degree in political science and communication arts from CNR in 2000 and will receive a master's degree in English from Long Island University, Brooklyn, in 2004. The article above was published in Catholic Medical Mission Board's newsletter, CMMB Today, subsequent to Margaret's visit to CMMB's HIV/AIDS programs in Africa. For more information about the work of CMMB, please visit www.cmmb.org.

College Community Urged to Bring Hope to Others During Centennial Convocation



In addition to an honorary degree, Sr. Patricia also received a Centennial Medal from CNR President Sweeny, created especially for the 100th anniversary to symbolize a special association between the recipient and the College.

Service — a commitment that has remained sacred throughout the almost 500-year history of the Ursulines and has remained vital and vibrant at The College of New Rochelle throughout its first 100 years. Thus making it a singularly appropriate focus for the fifth Centennial convocation, held in late April, at which the College welcomed Sr. Patricia Cruise, SC, President of Covenant House, to speak on Education for Service.

An acknowledged and respected practitioner of service in both her recently appointed work at Covenant House and during her previous eight years serving the young people of Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Sr. Tricia, who was awarded an honorary degree by the College during the convocation, urged members of the College Community to seek ways to bring hope to all people.

Describing her early experiences on the Pine Ridge Reservation, where she supervised three schools, 16 Catholic parishes, and the Heritage Center Museum, she spoke of an eye-opening

encounter with a single mother of seven children, who urged her to “take the time to drive over the cattle gate.”

Said Sr. Tricia, “I didn’t even know what a cattle gate was, never mind feeling courageous enough to visit families on the Reservation. I thought I had all the answers in my head from reading books, looking at pictures, and listening to stories. I knew life was hard.... I am not sure that I really wanted to see the reality of where our school children lived or how they lived nor what the 16 Lakota women that I worked with every day went home to every evening.”

But she did venture out, and was shocked by what she discovered — alcoholism, lack of housing or no housing at all, elder abuse, 85 percent unemployment, anger, pain, and even death. Yet, when she spent time with the Lakota people, Sr. Tricia was surprised to find, that in the midst of this oppression, she also saw life.

“I saw children with big brown eyes who laughed and played like every other kid I’d ever seen. I saw hope in a mom’s eyes that her children could make something of themselves. I saw adults that laughed and told jokes... I saw families that in hard times pulled together with whatever they had... I saw hope, and that is what I realized I needed to see in all people and that I needed to continue to ask the question: how can I work to keep hope alive with all those I would serve?”

It is with this commitment that Sr. Tricia has come to lead Covenant House, the largest shelter program for homeless youth in the Americas.

“Whether they are runaways or throwaways, we do not judge. Our mission calls us to accept every child that comes to our door. It calls us to unconditional love and absolute respect, and we know from 30 years’ experience that this is what makes a difference in the lives of children — and in the lives of adults.”

It was during Sr. Tricia’s first trip as President of Covenant House to Nicaragua that she had occasion to be reminded of the “cattle gate.”

“Walking through a rusted fence gate, I found a place where homeless children live. Kids who sniffed glue out of a jar all day to deaden hunger pains, kids who sold their bodies for food, kids who slept snuggled together on the ground for safety.

“But all I had to do was look into the eyes of these Nicaraguan children to see the same hope that I had seen in the eyes of the Lakota children. The care and concern that these children had for each other reinforced my determination and energy to continue my service,” she said, before concluding by accepting her honorary degree from the College in the “name of all Lakota children, the children of Covenant House, and every child that has been forgotten.”

— Lenore Carpinelli



During her moving address, Sr. Patricia Cruise urged those gathered to “take the knowledge and experience that The College of New Rochelle affords you and use it to bring hope into the lives of those who need it.”

Centennial Service Project Changes Lives on the Border



Terence McCorry, former director of Campus Ministry, reads with children living at the border.

"CLEAN WATER SHOULDN'T BE A LUXURY. PARENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO FEED AND CLOTHE THEIR CHILDREN. HEALTHCARE IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT. ALL THAT I KNOW, ALL THAT I'VE LEARNED, ALL THAT I CAN DRAW FROM WITHIN MY BEING CRIES OUT AGAINST THE INJUSTICES THE PEOPLE OF THE BORDER MUST ENDURE."



Myrcie Vilfranche SAS'06 teaches children to create paper flowers in Brownsville, Texas.

So wrote Helen Wolf, Director of Campus Ministry, upon her return last spring from the border towns of Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico, the site of this year's "International Plunge." Helen's heartfelt expressions echoed the feelings of the entire College Community, a community that came together, as it has so many times in the past, in spirit and body, through prayer and physical effort, to be of service to those in need, as part of the College's Centennial Service Project.

The Project, coordinated by Campus Ministry, benefited the Project Vida Digna in Matamoros and El Salon De Las Ursulinas in Brownsville. Throughout the year, the CNR Community collected books, toys, and health supplies for donation to the Ursuline Missions. And as part of the Plunge, 20 students from the Schools of Arts & Sciences and



With health care services limited on the border, Gail Wilson SN'04 takes the blood pressure of a woman in Brownsville.

Nursing traveled to those sites to witness first-hand the struggles of the poor and of the sisters of the Ursuline Missions who have for years served those communities. While on site the students helped to educate residents on pertinent health care issues, interacted with local school children, and worked to improve existing housing, back on CNR campuses efforts continued toward finding ways to provide potable water and to generate income for the hundreds of immigrant families. Those efforts culminated in generous donations from two major organizations – a water filtration prototype from the Davnor Corporation and sewing machines from the Singer Sewing Company.

In a heartfelt letter of thanks to the College, Sr. Norma Raupple, OSU, wrote, "My prayers and blessings on all of you. I'm proud to be an Ursuline and to know you as a faith-filled, generous, enthusiastic Ursuline Community."

Though the Centennial year is coming to a close, efforts on behalf of the residents of Matamoros and Brownsville, now so much a part of the College's extended family, will surely continue. Reflecting on the blessings realized through the Project, Helen says, "The CNR Community has made a significant difference in the lives of these beautiful, caring people."

– Irene Villaverde

College Community Fans Out to Help Others on Community Service Day

They helped construct affordable housing in Harlem, played bingo with senior citizens, tutored Spanish-speaking adults and children learning English, made sandwiches and soup for the homeless, delivered toys and clothes they had collected for needy children – just a few of the activities that nearly 150 faculty, staff, and students from across the College Community participated in as part of Centennial Community Service Day in April.

Beginning early that morning, participants set out to volunteer at sites throughout New Rochelle and New York City. Volunteers gardened at the senior citizen housing complex, while others cleaned recreational equipment at the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club. One group spent the afternoon organizing Casino Day at a local nursing home, while others packed supplies and equipment as Angela House, a residence for



SNR Associate Dean Donna Tyler (front) and Corrine Olensky, Staff Assistant for Curriculum and Instruction, SNR, spent the day working with Habitat for Humanity to renovate a building in Harlem into multi-family housing.

homeless women and children, prepared to relocate.

Volunteers from the School of New Resources branch campuses spent the day delivering food, clothing, toys, and books they had collected for the needy in their respective areas, while a group from the John Cardinal O'Connor Campus entertained senior citizens with a sing-a-long and games.

And even as activities continued well into the night – with a group delivering food, clothing, and toiletries to the homeless on the streets of Manhattan as part of the Midnight Run – it seems in the end the volunteers received much more than they gave, a fact that is clearly evident in their words.

“Working with Habitat for Humanity was a profoundly rewarding experience,” said Emory Craig, Director of Academic Computing Services. “I remember walking back into the bedroom that the staff and I had worked so hard to

sheetrock that day. Exhausted, covered with dust, and nursing a bruised finger or two, I thought about how a young child would soon be moving in this summer and calling it ‘home’ and how so many of that individual’s hopes and dreams would come to fruition here. I had an overwhelming feeling of satisfaction to know that we – that all of us at the College – in some small way were making a tangible difference in the lives of people around us.”

Working on another form of creation – a garden – Marie Rofhok, Director of Media & Photographic Services and the Mooney Center, had an equally positive experience. “As I dug into the ground planting each flower, I felt privileged to share the excitement and warmth with the senior citizens at Willow Towers. After the planting, we went to the social room where we sang and danced with the residents. I know I had as much fun as they did, and I left feeling good and smiling with the promise to return to smell the flowers when they bloomed.”

Anne Pelak, Supervisor of Direct Lending and Collection, also left her site with a good feeling, as did many others. “My colleagues were talking about their experiences for days afterwards,” she said. “What better way to give to others than your time and a bit of work – it doesn’t cost you anything to help someone else, yet the reward for the volunteer is immeasurable.”

– Lenore Carpinelli



CNR President Stephen Sweeney and Executive Vice President Ellen Curry Damato spent the afternoon sorting clothes for homeless teenagers at Covenant House.



The YMCA of New Rochelle was among the many beneficiaries of the efforts of CNR staff members, including Meghan Toomey SAS'02 seen here cleaning exercise equipment.

EXAMINING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CATHOLIC COLLEGE



“FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS, THIS COLLEGE HAS BEEN A PURPOSEFUL
COMMUNITY ROOTED IN THE CORE VALUES OF THE CATHOLIC TRADITION
FILTERED THROUGH THE URSULINE HERITAGE, AND STRIKINGLY DEVOTED
TO EDUCATION AND THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN GOOD.”

What does it mean to be a Catholic college in the twenty-first century? According to Sr. Elizabeth A. Johnson, CSJ, Distinguished Professor of Theology at Fordham University, speaking at the final Centennial convocation held during Alumnae/i College weekend in early June, it’s “a place where the Catholic heritage shapes the institution’s culture and philosophy of governance... where people see the Catholic tradition as good, where they cherish and nurture it, where they take it seriously as an intelligent and morally responsible option for contemporary people... where the Catholic heritage is publicly acknowledged, discussed, studied, taught, and learned.”

But to achieve this, said Dr. Johnson, one of the most preeminent female theologians in the country, requires more

than just courses in religious studies, more than liturgies, retreats, and peace and justice outreach. It requires that the entire college community – trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumnae – be “personally committed to the Catholic tradition, recognize in particular their responsibility to the educational mission of the founding religious order, and feel a moral obligation to carry on this work.”

Defining what it means to be a Catholic college was once not such a challenge. Forty years ago, Catholic colleges were owned and operated by religious orders – Ursuline, Jesuit, Franciscan – which “infused their particular spirit, their faith-filled gift or charism into campus life.” Led by priests or religious sisters and brothers, the faculty and student bodies of these colleges

were mostly Catholic, curriculum reflected Catholic teaching, and participation in religious worship was expected.

All of that changed in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when ownership of many of these Catholic colleges passed from their founding religious orders to the principal control of the laity. Why this dramatic and sudden shift in leadership? According to Dr. Johnson, it was the result of the desire for academic freedom and autonomy in policy-setting, the recently-concluded Second Vatican Council, which sought broader responsibility by the laity, and the need to qualify for the federal and state funds necessary to achieve a higher level of excellence.

Though some scholars have predicted that the shift of lay leadership would

(continued on page 26)



A formal procession with faculty and staff in full academic regalia began the convocation.

Examining What it Means

(continued from page 25)

create a similar situation among Catholic colleges to what occurred at institutions such as Harvard and Yale, once sponsored by the Protestant church and now completely secular, Dr. Johnson expressed far more optimism.

"Vatican II rediscovered and taught anew the ancient truth about the dignity of every baptized person. The whole church is called to holiness, not just or-

dained priests or vowed religious. Every baptized person shares the life of Christ... The point is, the church in our age bids lay persons to claim their identity as people called and gifted in Christ, and to exercise their responsibility without apology."

Yet, just how does this faith and its emphasis on "the dignity of the human person, the importance of the common good, principles of social justice, and the values of community, inclusion, ecumenism, diversity, and service" translate to higher education, where the primary mission is "intellectual, namely teaching, learning, research, the education of students in the liberal arts and professional studies"? Through leadership among trustees and administrators who are "personally committed to the Catholic tradition... and a critical mass of professors who have reflexive familiarity with the intellectual habits of the Catholic tradition, in order to provide a matrix for debates and teaching."

But "because there is much to be learned from sources outside the tradi-

tion," stressed Dr. Johnson, Catholic colleges are also places that should welcome faculty of all faiths and even no faith. "They raise questions and find solutions differently, and the synergy enriches the whole college community, provided the conversation takes place with mutual respect."

In terms of students, continued Dr. Johnson, "a Catholic college is a place that offers young and not so young students of the greatest diversity the opportunity to grow intellectually, morally, and socially in the context of a community whose fundamental values are those of Catholic Christianity. Its course of study encourages them to appreciate the life of the mind, gain competency in knowledge and skills, form convictions, seek truth and meaning in their own lives, develop ethical values, grow in sense of service, and find friends for the journey."

Though, she warned, this does not mean that a "Catholic slant is imposed on everything..." but that unlike a "secular academy which often dismisses religion as irrelevant to the intellectual

Gala Celebration a Remarkable Fundraising Success



Mistress of ceremonies Mercedes Ruehl amused the audience by recalling her work on the film, The Fisher King, where she was the only member of the cast when called upon by Robin Williams able to quote Middle English, which she remembered from her CNR days.

ment for the elegant black-tie affair, which raised more than \$600,000 to benefit the College's educational programs.

Hosted by alumna and award-winning actress Mercedes Ruehl, who served as mistress of ceremonies, the Gala was both a celebration of the College's rich history and the evening's two honorees – Sandra Priest Rose GS'77 of the

restaurant, Cipriani, with its marble floors, vaulted ceilings, and immense chandeliers, was a perfect comple-

ment for the elegant black-tie affair, which raised more than \$600,000 to benefit the College's educational programs.

Reading Reform Foundation of New York, and Indra Nooyi, President and CFO, PepsiCo.

Anne Sweeney SAS'79, Co-Chairman, Disney Media Networks/President, Disney-ABC Television Group (who co-chaired the Gala with Valerie Salembier SNR'73, Senior Vice President of *Harper's BAZAAR*), credited her long list of accomplishments to both her parents and the excellent education that she received at the College, before introducing Sandra Rose, another accomplished alumna.

In 1981, Sandra Rose co-founded Reading Reform Foundation of New York, a non-profit literacy organization which trains teachers to teach reading, writing, and spelling using multisensory phonetic techniques. Operating on the educational philosophy that almost every child can learn to read, write, and spell, if taught effectively, Reading Reform Foundation offers New York metropolitan area teachers graduate courses, accredited by CNR, and is currently working directly with teachers in over 60 classrooms in New York City and Mount Vernon public schools. This in-school teacher training reaches 1,800 children per year and has touched the lives of over 15,000 students in the past 15 years.

In accepting her award, Sandra also applauded the College, saying, "in a country where charitable practices and institutions abound, started often by religious groups, but fueled by



Sr. Elizabeth Johnson greets Janet Houlihan Kain '49 at the luncheon following the convocation.

project, here questions about ultimate things are respected, ethical issues can be raised in the classroom without embarrassment, and the notion that the course of study can contribute to transforming human lives and culture, especially the poor and marginalized, is explicitly encouraged."

Speaking bluntly, Dr. Johnson said, "here the mystery of God is not eliminated from the scene, as if an obscenity; we can say 'God' without blushing. The transcendent dimension of the human person, and of all history, is not refused admittance, as if a distraction; we can

say 'soul' without blushing. Those who come may grow into women and men of 'conscience and compassion,' prepared to contribute to the good of others; we can say 'competency' and 'character' in the same breath without blushing. And all of this is done in a way that the value of intellectual inquiry is rigorously respected; we can say 'academic excellence' without blushing."

Can this endeavor continue for another century? That remains unsure, said Dr. Johnson, for "there is no precedent for the forces now in play in our pluralistic society, our changing church, and the structures of the schools themselves," but the future is "mainly in and through the laity."

And for The College of New Rochelle itself as it embarks on its second century as a Catholic college? "For one hundred years, this College has been a purposeful community rooted in the core values of the Catholic tradition filtered through the Ursuline heritage, and strikingly devoted to education and the promotion of human good." Then plac-

ing a challenge before the faculty, staff, and alumnae/i gathered under the tent on Maura Lawn, Dr. Johnson advised, "Today, you are stewards of this heritage. Taking your bearings from this splendid past, the academic community here needs to envision new possibilities of how to carry on the mission. It may well be that this will be realized in forms as yet unexplored."

– Lenore Carpinelli



Sr. Elizabeth Johnson speaks with CNR President Stephen Sweeny and trustee Sr. Margaret Mary Kelleher as they process across campus to a tent on Maura Lawn where hundreds await.

the work, money, and oversight of volunteers, The College of New Rochelle stands as an example to its students and to the community-at-large."

Described as a woman who has crossed continents, overcome gender barriers, and broken through glass ceilings of the corporate world while demonstrating that she is a woman of wisdom, achievement, and integrity, Indra Nooyi, the first woman president of the world's fourth largest food and beverage company, maintains her devotion to her family and her Hindu faith and gives generously of her time to a variety of cultural, health, and educational organizations.

Moving to the podium to accept her award from Valerie Salembier, Indra Nooyi highlighted the fact that in offering the opportunity to learn "in new and innovative ways," the College shows it "understands the needs of women from all walks of life – working women, working mothers, young, old, and in between by providing a college curriculum that is both flexible and convenient." She then went on to accept her award "on behalf of women and rising women leaders everywhere."

Truly a remarkable evening, of fine food, wonderful ambience, and great friends, and celebrating an extraordinary college.

– Lenore Carpinelli



The honorees were presented with crystal vases during the awards presentation. Pictured from left are Anne Sweeney SAS'79, Gala Co-Chair, honoree Indra Nooyi, CNR President Stephen Sweeny, honoree Sandra Priest Rose GS'77, mistress of ceremonies Mercedes Ruehl, and Valerie Salembier SNR'73, Gala Co-Chair.



Several members of the Class of 1968 were on hand for the Gala including (from left) Margo Marabon Terwilliger, Kristin Krause McDonough, Marianne Doherty Campbell, and Susan Bundschuh Davidson.



Los Angeles Alumnae/i Event Stirs Memories

Does anyone remember the Junior Show? Lunchtimes in the Caf? Bridge in the "T"? Swimphony?

At the CNR 100th Anniversary celebration at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles in April, I was intrigued when from my seat, I saw among the College pictures on display what looked to be a picture of my friend Marilyn and myself dressed as blue bridesmaids and pirouetting as gracefully as we dared during the Junior Show. I hadn't thought about our Junior Show for years!

At the luncheon that followed the tour of the new Cathedral, my husband and I shared our table with three young graduates of the Class of 2003, who had come to Los Angeles to try their fortunes in the movie industry. Conversation flowed easily as we shared those experiences that made four years at CNR not only an education but a life event.

I shared my fond memories of Swimphony and Landphony, the annual synchronized swimming and dancing to music at the pool in the Sports Building. The new graduates spoke of class schedules that seemed not quite as conducive to shared experience as those of my class. The members of the Class of 1961 had regular Masses and class

meetings together. Before one of these meetings, we might sing along to "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue" as Lois Farrell or another talented classmate played the piano. Classmates had other abilities too. We would go to Mo Moriarty's room for her to cut our hair because she "knew" how to do it, and it was free. Of course the sadness of losing Mo Moriarty shortly after graduation and Jackie Murphy after the prom was intensified by our closeness.

This closeness reached its apogee during our junior year when the Class all came together for the Junior Show, written, produced, directed, choreographed, and performed by my classmates in Chidwick Hall. I can't remember too much about it, only the nervousness of my audition, and my small dancing part, but what a wonderful time we had performing what was wholly ours.

Another reason for the closeness of the class was the communal lunch hour. We could always find a table in the Caf with some friendly classmates. The food was good too! I have yet to find the equal of Friday's macaroni and cheese

casserole and lemon cream pie. One St. Patrick's day, however, led to a short hiatus in our attendance at our regular lunch tables. Some of my friends rose early and painted a green stripe down Castle Place, extending past the Caf and the library, just because, I think, it was spring, senior year, and someone thought of it. I stayed clear of the prank, but when my pals were found out and disciplined for two weeks by banishment from the Caf, I joined them voluntarily as they spent their exile in the "T", that smoky social hall below the Cafeteria.

At the Los Angeles luncheon, my tales of the "T" brought puzzled looks not only from the new graduates, but also from the two alumnae from 1973 who sat at the table. During my student years, day hops and resident students alike would gather there after lunch or between classes to study, gossip, and play bridge games, some of which even lasted through classes. Those bridge lessons I learned in the "T" served me well in those early years as I followed my husband during his stints in the military.

So, at our "Caf" table at Our Lady of the Angels, I once again felt a connection to other CNR family members as we talked of what is and what was. When Dr. Sweeny offered the microphone to anyone who wanted to speak, I walked to the podium and told some of my memories. Sometimes there was a nod of recognition, sometimes not, but I saw smiles and knew that all shared the warmth and love that colored my anecdotes.

As I walked back from the podium, a closer glance at that photo display told me that those weren't blue bridesmaids after all; they were young women dressed in our old blue gym suits and practicing archery. I'm hoping that the picture was taken on a Friday and when they finished their class, they stored their bows and arrows, and went over to the Caf for some macaroni and cheese, a slice of lemon cream pie, and a taste of the wonderful friendships that would last them all their years.

— Carol Finamore Stanley '61

RECALLING FAVORITE FACULTY

Alice Gallin, OSU '42

(Mother Mary Alice)

History Faculty, School of Arts & Sciences (1950-1976)

Acting Dean (1955-1957)

Director of Public Relations (1961-1963)

Dean of Students (1963-1967)



After twelve years in Washington, DC, as Executive Director of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, I retired and began to write books on Catholic higher education in the United States – *American Catholic Higher Education* in 1992; *Independence and a New Partnership* in 1996; and *Negotiating Identity: Catholic higher education since 1960* in 2000. In the 1990s, I served for six months as Interim President of St. Bonaventure University and for a year as a Visiting Professor at Saint Louis University.

Returning to New Rochelle in 1997, I spent three years as Prioress as the Ursuline Community of St. Teresa and am now with the College as Scholar-in-Residence. I am also working on a volume of documents dealing with the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities issued by John Paul II in 1990.

Thomas Rocco

Adjunct Faculty, School of New Resources

(1974-1976, 1977-1983)

Director of Independent Study, School of New Resources

New Rochelle Campus (1975)

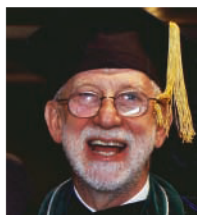
Director of Curriculum, School of New Resources

New Rochelle Campus (1975-1976)

Director, Core Program in the Humanities,

School of New Resources (1977-1980)

Associate Dean, School of New Resources (1979-1983)



Even 20 years after leaving the School of New Resources, I still remember my years there with affection. After leaving the College in 1983, I went on to SUNY Empire State College, where I spent 15 years serving in various capacities, including as Senior Dean and Regional Dean, Western New York. After SUNY, I spent three years as President and Dean of The Leadership Institute of Seattle. Most recently, I was President of The College for Lifelong Learning, part of the University System of New Hampshire. I retired this past June.

Barbara Joyce

Associate Professor, School of Nursing (1990-1994)

Adjunct Professor, School of Nursing (1995-1997)

Professor, School of Nursing (1997-2001)

Adjunct Professor, School of Nursing (2001-2003)



I am busy here on my mountain creating Hestia's Hearth – Center for the Conscious Creation of Unity. Hestia's Hearth is a spiritual center for healing and consciousness education. Hestia's activities include retreats for women's con-

sciousness development, workshops for healing and spiritual development, women's circles, study groups, individual guided retreats, individual psychotherapy and celebration of the natural calendar through ritual. I also publish a quarterly newsletter which is available by subscription. Hestia's firepit and surrounding altar in the forest were just completed this summer – come for a visit! Elka Park is only 2.5 hours from CNR!

James Magee

Social Work Faculty, School of Arts & Sciences (1972-1987)

Counseling and Gerontology Faculty, Graduate School (1987-2002)



My family and I are so grateful for the caring environment with which CNR nourished our personal and professional development. During my thirty years at the College, I finished my doctorate, my wife Nancy graduated from the Graduate School and worked for 14 years in Gill Library, our daughter Mary graduated from the School of Nursing, and our daughter Kate attended the Child Study Center. I was graced over those decades with a vibrant give-and-take with wonderful students. Now in our retirement, Nancy and I are able to participate in daily Mass in the chapel. I am a volunteer two mornings a week at the Hope Community Food Pantry, conduct monthly reminiscence groups at the Marian Residence, and write book reviews for professional journals.

Sharon Golub

Assistant Professor of Psychology, School of Arts & Sciences (1974-1979)

Associate Professor of Psychology, School of Arts & Sciences (1979-1986)

Professor of Psychology, School of Arts & Sciences (1986-1998)



I have worn many hats in my professional life: professor, therapist, nurse, editor, researcher, writer. But without question, teaching at CNR has been the most gratifying. Since my retirement from full-time teaching in 1998, I continue my private practice, seeing psychotherapy patients one or two days a week and currently exploring the new research on Apositive psychology, happiness, and resiliency. The Westchester County Psychological Association honored me with the annual Distinguished Service Award in 2003. But all my current professional activity still leaves lots of time for my six grandchildren and trips to Disneyland and Discovery Cove, where I swam with the dolphins. And when I need tranquility, I paint rocks.



Alumnae/i Celebrate the Centennial During Alumnae/i College 2004

They dined, danced, were intellectually stimulated, received awards, posed for photos, and most of all renewed friendships forged during their years at The College of New Rochelle. They were the alumnae/i of the classes ending in 4s and 9s, and the place was the 66th Annual Alumnae/i College, held on an early June weekend.

The weather was cool and wet for most of the weekend – though it did nothing to quell the enthusiasm of the reunioning classes, some returning after 70 years, other returning after just five. Those arriving on Friday afternoon could choose to tour the newly renovated Gill Library, attend demonstrations of complementary therapies, such as reflexology, therapeutic touch, and

meditation in the Learning Center for Nursing, or view the art on display in the Castle Gallery and Mooney Center Exhibit Hall.

After Friday's dinner, Maura Ballroom rang with laughter as alumnae opposed each other in a team trivia competition. Questions ranging from the original name of the College to how many campuses make up the College today challenged participants in the Centennial College Bowl to truly "remember when." Though in the end alumnae representing the youngest classes emerged victorious, all the teams had their individual moments of glory along the way, and great fun in the process. (*Test your own*

knowledge of CNR trivia on page 36.)

Early risers on Saturday morning were energized by the Fun Run/Walk along the streets surrounding the College before returning for a continental breakfast. Then as part of the College's Centennial celebration, an academic convocation addressing the question "For the Second Century, Why Catholic?" brought preeminent woman theologian Sr. Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, to the College.

During a fascinating intellectual discourse, Sr. Elizabeth, Distinguished Professor of Theology at Fordham University, examined the evolution of Catholic identity over the last few decades, the heart of the Catholic vision, and what this all means for Catholic colleges and universities today. (*For full coverage of Sr. Elizabeth's address, see page 25.*)

At the end of her address, CNR President Stephen Sweeny conferred an



2004 Award Recipients

Women of Achievement Awards

Mercedes Ruehl '69

Anne Sweeney SAS'79

Angela Merici Medals

Anne Yedowitz '34

Mary Alice McGowan Byrnes '54

Margaret Whyte Lyons '59

Rowena Larkin Morris '59

Lillian Brennan Carney '69

Ursula Laurus Citations

Marie Duffin '39

Aline Baldwin Ragosta '39

Kathleen Janet Donnelly '44

Elizabeth Manske Schneider '44

Marie Linehan Chiappetta '49

Janet Houlihan Kain '49

Ann Pfohl Kirby '49

Mary McEntegart Welch '49

Kathleen Desmond Hughes '54

Patricia Brunetto Kiernan '54

Eileen Egan Burke '59

Patricia Colahan Cunningham '59

Maura Dausey '59

Angela Bannan Healey '59

Mary Ann Geraci Marriott '59

Mary Therese Mulcahy '59

Carole McCarthy Nicholson '59

Patricia Trainor '59

Elaine Donovan Blair '64

Eileen Maher Browning '64

Patricia Quattrochi Gorman '64

Kathleen McKenna Sullivan '64

Cecelia Stevens Mackey '64

Nancy O'Malley '69

Joanna O'Brien Prouty '69

Noel Petri Robinson '69

Barbara Sisk Troxell '69

Janet Sarrantonio Blair SAS'74

Diane Siegert Sharp SAS'74

Nancy Carey Cassidy SAS'79

Gerri Noble Martocci SAS'79

Ruth Doherty Mohr SAS'79

Elizabeth Cahill SAS'84



honorary degree on Sr. Elizabeth, stating that by virtue of the degree, the College's own reputation rises. He then went on to award Sr. Elizabeth the Centennial Medal, created especially for the 100th anniversary to symbolize a special bond between the recipient and the College, and surprising those gathered honored the two former CNR presidents in attendance, Sr. Elizabeth O'Brien, OSU '34, eighth president, and Sr. Dorothy Ann Kelly, OSU '51, eleventh president, with Centennial medals as well.

The afternoon brought light rain to dampen the class photographs but failed to dampen the smiles of the alumnae who posed, older now than in their CNR days but no less thrilled to be together once more.

Alumnae were honored for service to the College and their communities with *Ursula Laurus* Citations and Angela

Merici Medals and for their professional success with Women of Achievement Awards during the late afternoon awards ceremony, before gathering for a lovely liturgy, celebrated by CNR Chaplain Father Joseph Flynn, OFM, Cap., and held in honor of deceased alumnae of the reunion classes.

Then it was time to dress for a gala evening. While members of the 50th Reunion Class of 1954 enjoyed a candlelight dinner in Leland Castle Parlors, reunioners from all other classes dined and danced the night away under a tent on Maura Lawn, an evening that ended grudgingly as alumnae were loathe to separate.

As Sunday morning dawned, once again cloudy and wet, it matched the mood of many for the end of the weekend loomed so close. For most, brunch marked their farewell. Bidding each other goodbye, they vowed to stay in touch until the next reunion, demonstrating strong friendships that continued to endure.

— Lenore Carpinelli

Photos clockwise from top left:

Mary Ann Geraci Marriott '59 and Eileen Mylod Hayden '59.

Meghan Finter Moreno SAS'97, Heather Lent SAS'99, Mary Beth McGuire SAS'97, Ryan Wright SAS'99, and Jessica Marston SAS'99.

This year's Angela Merici Medalists with CNR President Stephen Sweeny (pictured from left): Rowena Larkin Morris '59, Margaret Whyte Lyons '59, Mary Alice McGowan Byrnes '54, Anne Yedowitz '34, and Lillian Brennan Carney '69.

Members of the Class of '54 (from left) Jane Hunter Galick, Flo-Jo Bell, Evelyn Mechler, and Peggy Peer Schilling.

Members of the Class of '69 (from left) Janice Dickerson Reilly, Kathleen Burke Schohl, Joanne Smith Romalewski, Elizabeth Dowling Meehan, Mary Jo Rocque Pittoni, Pat Miod Kriss, and Tana Sibilio.





Record Number Comprise Centennial Class of 2004 During Commencement at Radio City Music Hall

On May 27, the College's record-setting Class of 2004 – more than 1,600 strong – were the star performers at Radio City Music Hall during this year's Centennial Commencement. Prior to the ceremony, excitement filled the air, as the graduates donned their caps and gowns in Radio City's lower lounge, while in backstage dressing rooms, administrators and honored guests posed for photos in their colorful academic regalia.

As the graduates took their seats to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstances," which filled the majestic and historic theater, the College's faculty, staff, and administrators marched onto the stage. The final member of the procession, CNR President Stephen Sweeny was heard to remark "Isn't this extraordinary!" as he left the wings of the stage to move out before Radio City's footlights.

Speaking to the graduates later, Dr. Sweeny joked, "Haven't you always wanted to be on stage at Radio City Music Hall?" He then went on to offer his congratulations to the College's new alumnae/i for their hard work, while urging them to not merely be content with professional and career success but also to utilize their CNR educations to be people of conscience and compassion working for the betterment of others.

An alumna, Ursuline, and long-time advocate of women-centered education as Principal of New Rochelle's Ursuline School for the past 30 years, Sr. Jean-Baptiste Nicholson, who recently stepped down as Chair of the Board of Trustees, was a clear choice to address the thousands of graduates, family, and friends gathered as the College marked its impressive anniversary. Proclaiming the new graduates to now be part of the rich legacy that encompassed nearly 500 years of Ursuline history, a century of academic excellence at The College of New Rochelle, and generations of graduates that have come before them, Sr. Jean-Baptiste went on to discuss why in her view the College has not just survived these 100 years, but thrived and flourished.

"In a culture that asks not 'What can I do for you?', but 'How much will I be paid?', how did we, The College of New Rochelle, get to be one of 65 women's colleges today who survived? In fact, how did we get to be the one that came into being as the first Catholic women's college in New York State?"

The answer, says Sr. Jean-Baptiste, lies in Ursuline foundress Angela Merici – a woman "of strength, of wisdom, of conscience," with a vision of what she needed to do so strong that she turned down requests from both the Duke of Milan and the Pope himself to take over charitable work in their cities.

"What a risk she took. And what a difference that made," said Sr. Jean-Baptiste. "Angela was a woman of the Renaissance at a time when women were not allowed to be Renaissance women – the early sixteenth century. They could either be wives or cloistered nuns. She found and founded a new way to be a committed religious and live in the world.... We are all here today because she followed that vision and founded her company of women."

Then, more than three centuries later, another woman with a vision saw a need, a need for women to have access to quality education. That woman was Mother Irene Gill, who went on to found The College of New Rochelle in 1904.

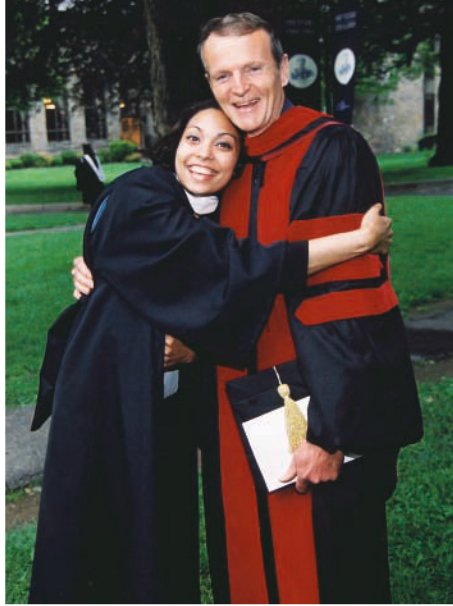
"We are the beneficiaries of Irene's vision... of Irene's willingness to take risks for the sake of her vision... of Irene's certainty, in the pattern of Angela, that she was doing God's work."



Posing with CNR President Stephen Sweeny (left) and Board of Trustees Chair Michael Ambler (right) are this year's honorary degree recipients: Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU (second from left), Sr. Jean Baptiste Nicholson, OSU, and Earl Graves.



SAS graduate Angelina Suarez glows with achievement!



Qiana Munez SAS'04 hugs Dr. Dennis Ryan.

It is because of the vision of these two women, said Sr. Jean-Baptiste, that the College has flourished because “the vision has been passed on to generations, first to Ursulines, but very quickly to their collaborators, women and men who have embraced the vision to bring wisdom of the ages to those most willing to embrace it, of bringing to those who were eager, in Angela’s words and with Angela’s example, to ‘risk new things, stick with it... and be ready for big surprises.’”

Surprises and challenges that the College faced squarely when in the late 1960s, many women’s colleges were closing or going co-ed. Like Angela and Irene had done centuries and decades before, the College broadened the vision, “they broke new ground, extending the vision beyond educating young women, while not losing sight of their special place in the College’s mission and history. And so came the Schools of New Resources and Nursing, and the Graduate School. And that vision too, points the way to the future.”

And what of the future? According to Sr. Jean-Baptiste, in going forward, “we must not only embrace the future, we must shape it. We must believe in the vision. We must be willing to risk for the sake of the vision.... We who are the beneficiaries of the vision must be the ones who empower the present and future generations to make it their own, to be guided by their instincts and their knowledge of this College, and what treasures of wisdom and faith it has yet to impart to generations to come.... We will have a rich future so long as we have vision.”

Following her address, Sr. Jean-Baptiste was recognized for her ardent support of women’s education and of The College of New Rochelle for 28 years as a trustee, including six years as Chair, with an honorary doctorate from the College. Also chosen for accolades were Earl G. Graves, Founder and Publisher of *Black Enterprise* magazine, and Sr. Dianna Ortiz, OSU, Founder and Director of the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International.

A nationally recognized authority on Black business development and one of the most successful and influential leaders in American corporate life, Earl Graves was noted for “combining vision, business acumen, education, and hard work with an unwavering moral compass” and for his staunch advocacy of higher education and equal opportunity and his life-

long commitment to the values of family, community, and service to society.

In 1987, Sr. Dianna Ortiz went to Guatemala as a missionary to teach Mayan children. Abducted and tortured before escaping her captors, she lost all memory of her life before her horrendous experience and has spent the ensuing years seeking justice as well as healing for torture victims worldwide. A woman with an indomitable spirit, Sr. Dianna was lauded for her “courageous commitment to justice, her lifelong vocation to education, her life of faith and action to eliminate the evil of human torture and to bring about a more just and peaceful world.”

Then it was the graduates moment to shine, as each proudly strode across Radio City’s stage to accept their degree from President Sweeny. As flashbulbs popped and congratulatory remarks rang out from the audience, the graduates waved to their family and friends, returning to their seats justifiably gratified in their accomplishments – accomplishments they went on to celebrate long after the ceremony ended, the theater emptied, the footlights were dimmed, and the sounds of traffic along Sixth Avenue replaced that of applause for the College’s Centennial class – the Class of 2004.

– Lenore Carpinelli



Rebecca Johnson, an SNR graduate from the Rosa Parks Campus in Harlem, proudly celebrates with her family outside Radio City.



SN Graduate Michael Ciavarella (pictured here with from left Dr. Joan Arnold, SN Dean Donna Demarest, and Dr. Nancy Cole).

End of Life Expressions Focus of School of Nursing Conference



Dr. Mireya Perez-Bustillo, Associate Professor of Spanish, SAS, speaks with CNR President Stephen Sweeny, as Dr. Joan Bailey, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, looks on.

It is a topic that touches every one of us at some point in our lifetime – dealing with the end of life, the lives of our family and friends, and eventually the end of our own lives. Often central to those experiences are nurses, caring witnesses to all elements of the human experience from birth to death. It was with this in mind that the School of Nursing, empowered with educating those individuals, chose “End of Life Expressions” as the topic for a conference held in late April in honor of the College’s Centennial year.

Exploring the topic from an experiential point of view, during the course of the often emotionally wrenching program, faculty, staff, and students from across the College used art, music, poetry, and personal narrative to illustrate more than merely the pain and sadness associated with the end of life but also to celebrate the concept of caring.

Drama students presented a passage from *The Shadow Box*, a play that tells three tales of people dying, while GS Art Therapy Professor Patricia St. John read the poem *Reiter Tod*. SAS Spanish Professor Mireya Perez-Bustillo shared a section of the diary of Frida Kahlo, an

artist whose art often reflected the great physical pain she endured, and Ellen Goldring, Supervisor of Child Life/Creative Arts at the Joseph M. Sanzari Children’s Hospital in New Jersey, spoke of the use of art therapy to help children and young adults deal with grief.

A long-time hospice volunteer, Anne Pelak, Supervisor of Direct Lending and Collections at the College, shared a moving reflection of her experiences with individuals facing the end of their lives. “Through the years, I have visited with men and women of various ages, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds,” she said. “Each individual has enriched my life, and I like to think the experiences have helped me to be a better person.”

She then went on to describe some of the individuals she had had the privilege to spend time with, however brief, including an African American gentleman who enjoyed reminiscing about his days as a firefighter, an elderly woman who unable to speak due to her cancer liked

having the rosary and favorite sections of the bible read aloud to her, and a Jamaican woman who though bedridden demonstrated an unbelievable spirit and grace.

“The wonderful patients and the families that I have met are too numerous to mention. Through my hospice patients, I have been taught to make Jamaican fish cakes, Italian gnocchi, and Hungarian espresso. The dignity and grace each patient has bore as they prepare for their death is inspiring on many levels.”

These feelings were echoed by nursing students, who interspersed between the other presentations read excerpts from a journal that students performing their clinical rotations in hospice settings contribute to, creating an ongoing chronicle of their journey through the experience.

“I have learned many things in life but few are as profound as the lesson in humanity I learned in hospice,” read Latanya Bather ’04. “I began my day hoping I’d be of some assistance to my nursing preceptor



During the evening, Dr. Joan Arnold spoke on facilitating grieving.

and the patient and ended it with a deeper understanding of life, death, and the not so simple fact that every encounter with every individual has the potential to touch hearts and change lives."

"I enter the rooms with the purpose of giving comfort and care," read Michael Ciavarella '04, "and ironically, it is the patients who teach me the true meaning of courage and valor... I now realize that the dying person doesn't always need *from you*, rather they may need to *give* to you."

"What I found in almost every situation was a small group of people committed to making the last days of a person's life dignified and enjoyable," read Deirdre Shields '04. "I was honored to be a part of it.... I realized I was getting more from them than I was able to give. And I learned that death does not have to be grieving for a life lost, but a celebration for a life well-lived!"

These messages were echoed by Nancy Cole, Director of Academic Programs in the School of Nursing. "Care for the dying means not only 'doing for' but also 'being with.' Care for patients and families at the end of life combines caring, communication, knowledge, and skill.... To be present with the patient and family is to allow oneself to enter into another's world and to respond with compassion. There are some things in life that 'cannot be fixed.' No matter how hard we try, the perfect words or gestures to relieve a patient's and family's distress rarely, if ever, exist. It is often just enough to be with them."

"We may not have the answers to the existential questions of life and death any more than the patient does. We may not be able to eliminate all feelings of regret or fear of the unknown. But it is not our solutions that matter. Our role is to stand by the patient, steadfastly providing psychosocial support, while they strive to discover their own answers."

— *Lenore Carpinelli*

COLLEGE HONORED BY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

In June, the College was recognized with two awards for its outstanding contributions. On June 2, the College received the Patrick Cardinal Hayes Award for outstanding contributions to Catholic education from LaSalle Academy. The College was also honored at a luncheon on June 9 for its outstanding commitment to the New Rochelle community by the New Rochelle Council of Community Services.

Bestowed during LaSalle's Commencement ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Patrick Cardinal Hayes Award was accepted by the Chair of the College's Board of Trustees Michael Ambler. Over the past several years, the College has developed a close relationship with LaSalle Academy in Manhattan, and CNR President Stephen Sweeny currently serves as Chair of LaSalle's Board. In addition, LaSalle graciously provided the College with classroom facilities for nearly a year when the School of New Resources DC37 Campus in lower Manhattan was forced to temporarily close due to structural damage in the building after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

During the New Rochelle Council of Community Services award presentation to Dr. Sweeny, Karen Farber GS'86, Co-President of the Council, spoke of how The College of New Rochelle had "changed her life." The Council is comprised of health and human service agencies, religious institutions, educational facilities, and other not-for-profit organizations united to improve and coordinate the delivery of services to all members of the community.

New SAS Dean Named



The School of Arts & Sciences now has a new dean with the appointment of Dr. Richard Thompson in August. Dr. Thompson, who most recently served as Dean of Child and Family Studies and Associate Professor at Wheelock College in Boston, succeeds Dr. Hollie Hurrell, who has been dean of the School of Arts & Sciences since 1999 and now returns to the psychology faculty.

"Dr. Thompson is a very experienced, committed educator who comes to assume the leadership of the School of Arts & Sciences possessing impressive personal gifts and professional expertise," said Dr. Stephen Sweeny, CNR President, in making the announcement to the College Community. "I am confident that he is well equipped to lead the School forward quickly and effectively to inspire cooperation, confidence, and creativity in the faculty and to enhance the recruitment and retention initiatives for increase enrollment."

With a long and impressive history in higher education, Dr. Thompson is also an articulate advocate of women's education.

"There's so much that's positive about CNR," said Dr. Thompson during a conversation with Communications staff. "It's a gem. We just need to get that word out to others."

Prior to joining Wheelock College in 1986, Dr. Thompson served as Director of the Child Life and Family Education Department at the University of Chicago Medical Center and was an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University's College of Medicine. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Carleton College, a master's degree in elementary education from the University of Louisville, and a doctorate in child and family studies from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

ALUMNAE/ CELEBRATE IN BOSTON

Nearly 60 Massachusetts area alumnae/i enjoyed a spectacular April afternoon overlooking Boston Harbor during a reception at Boston Harbor Hotel hosted by Patrick and Lillian Brennan Carney '69, who spoke to those gathered during the reception (top right). Enjoying themselves at the event were (top left) CNR President Stephen Sweeny, Donna Freni SAS'70, and Barbara Sisk Troxell '69, (bottom left) Diane Stone SAS'70 and Rita Gilligan Burke '45, and (bottom right) Pat Looby Clary '59, Alice Russell Deegan '38, and Jack Clary.



How Well Do You Remember When?

Test Your CNR Knowledge!

1. What was The College of New Rochelle's original founding name?
2. How was the first Annales yearbook brought to the residence halls?
3. Built in 1906, the "Gymnasium," containing laboratories, classrooms and, of course, a gymnasium was renamed in 1936 to honor a CNR president. What was its new name?
4. How many campuses make up The College of New Rochelle today?
5. What war time curriculum course allowed a student to earn credits?
6. What was the name of the informal student/faculty discussions held on Friday evenings in the late 1950s?
7. What was the gathering place formerly known as the "T" called in the late 1960s?

Answers: 1. The College of Saint Angela; 2. By pony cart and singing students; 3. Chidwick; 4. Six; 5. Radio communications; 6. Talk Without Chalk; 7. The Raspberry

Vavasour Sisters Honor Their Mother with Donation to CNR

The College of New Rochelle is clearly a tradition in the Shanley and Vavasour families, which counts three generations and eight members who have graduated from the College beginning with Rose Cavanaugh Shanley '20. Continuing yet another tradition begun many years ago when Kaye Shanley Vavasour '44 and her two sisters made a gift to the College to honor Rose, Kaye's four daughters – Mary Vavasour SAS'72, Sheila Vavasour U'Ren SAS'73, Rosemary Vavasour Richards SAS'74, and JoEllen Vavasour SAS'76 – donated \$20,000 to the College in their mother's honor in June. The gift will be used to name a seating area in Gill Library after Kaye.

"When Mother Irene Gill, a member of the Ursuline Order, founded the College in 1904, her goal was to create an insti-



tution dedicated to the education of women. This belief that every young woman has the right to develop herself intellectually, spiritually, and personally for the betterment of the world continues to drive all that we do at CNR," said CNR President Stephen Sweeny, who is pictured at left at Kaye's 60th Reunion when the gift was announced with (from left) JoEllen Vavasour,

Kaye, and Rosemary Vavasour Richards. "The fact that three generations of the Vavasour family have turned to us to educate their young women is a testament to CNR's mission, vision, and values, and to the wisdom of the Vavasour family."

Alumna Spotlights Global Epidemic of Children Affected with HIV/AIDS



Visiting a rural clinic in Uganda more than 10 years ago, Kathleen Cravero Kristofferson SAS'76 encountered an 11-year-old girl standing by the side of the bed of her mother, who was dying of AIDS. As Kathleen passed by, she took the girl's hand, expressing her sorrow at her mother's illness. Though the girl did not respond, says Kathleen, her eyes spoke volumes, "Don't apologize," they said. "Do something."

According to Kathleen, she has carried the image of that little girl in her mind ever since, and it is that little girl who has compelled her to action to work to stem the global epidemic of HIV/AIDS throughout the world.

And the epidemic looms large, a fact that was clearly evident as Kathleen, who is the Deputy Executive Director of Joint UN Programs HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), outlined the extent of the crisis for members of the College Community gathered for the third Human Rights Symposium, hosted by the School of Arts & Sciences to spotlight the impact of HIV/AIDS on children worldwide.

By the end of 2002, 42 million people were living with HIV – 12 million of those between the ages of 15 and 24 and three million below the age of 14. Last year, there were over five million new infections, with over 50 percent of those among women.

"Thus," says Kathleen, "the face of AIDS is young and female, and not only in so-called developing countries. Even in the United States, AIDS is now the leading cause of death for African-American women ages 25 to 34."

Plus, this rapid rise in infection has spurred an equally numbing result – over 14 million children orphaned by AIDS, a number that could double by 2010.

"That means that by the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century," says Kathleen, "there may be 30 million children growing up without the care, love, and protection of adults, denied their rights to education, and increasingly vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Let us not forget the orphans of today are the adults of tomorrow – it is these children who will shape this century, and it is their experience that will shape their world view. For those of us who have looked into the eyes of these children, have seen the way they live, and understood their daily

struggle to survive, this is a sobering thought."

The good news according to Kathleen: hundreds of programs throughout the world are making a difference by taking such initiatives as designing curricula that meets the special needs of children affected by AIDS to keep children in school, giving children the information they need to protect themselves, providing real options to continue their education, acquire skills, and find jobs, and enacting legislation to protect the access of orphans and children to services and opportunities.

So, what more needs to be done? Kathleen went on to outline a plan of action developed by UNICEF and UNAIDS, which includes provisions to strengthen and support the capacity of families to protect and care for their children, to mobilize community-based responses, to treat children and young people as part of the solution by involving them in decisions about their own lives, and perhaps most important, to ensure that "governments lead the way in putting children first – and helping them, their families, and their communities cope with the greatest development challenge of our time."

Concluding her address that both sounded an alarm and suggested solutions, she called on those gathered to not sit idly by but to "do something," whether it be by informing others, volunteering for a non-governmental group, or voting for people who understand these issues.

"We need to end once and for all the idea that 30 million orphans by 2010 is someone else's problem rather than our own... The fact is that this is every government's problem, every community's problem, every church's problem – and every college's and university's problem. AIDS is one of the most virulent, rapidly evolving epidemics in human history. And we must be just as determined and innovative in our response."

– Lenore Carpinelli

Photos above: Following the keynote by Kathleen Cravero Kristofferson (pictured center), James Cairns, Director of the Program on Children for the World Conference of Religions for Peace (far left), and Carol Levine, Director of the Families and Health Care Project at the United Hospital Fund (far right) shared their own expertise on the crisis, before an appreciative audience. Also pictured are Anne McKernan, Associate Professor of History, SAS, who organized the event, and SAS Dean Hollie Hurrell.



Strawberry Festival Enjoyed by All

The threat of rain forced festivities inside for this year's Strawberry Festival but the atmosphere remained jubilant as students, both past and present, and members of the local community spent the afternoon being entertained by the CNR cheerleaders and the choir, watching a reenactment of the traditional Daisy Chain, enjoying the delicious strawberry snacks, and much more.



GRADUATE SCHOOL RECEIVES MAJOR GIFT FROM COLBURN MEMORIAL HOME

In late July, Dr. Stephen Sweeny, CNR President, was pleased to accept a gift of more than \$500,000 on behalf of the Graduate School Gerontology Program from Mary Jane Reddington '45, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Colburn Memorial Home, which closed recently after serving senior citizens in New Rochelle for many years. The

gift, part of the proceeds from the sale of the home, was presented in recognition of the shared commitment between the Gerontology Program and the Colburn Home to the care and dignity of older persons, critically important since Westchester has one of the highest percentages of senior citizens in the nation.

School of New Resources Opens New Site in Far Rockaway

Far Rockaway during the winter can be cold, windy, and wet. It bears little resemblance to the sun soaked beach that most of us remember. Yet, despite the freezing weather, in February 2004, the School of New Resources basked in the warm welcome of the more than three dozen students who attended the first night of classes at the new Far Rockaway site, an extension of the Brooklyn Campus.

That first semester, 38 women and men were registered for the six courses given two nights a week at P.S. 198. They came from a variety of learning experiences and work places – social services, health care, clergy, banking, education – and had varied interests, with artists, entertainers, and jewelry makers among them. The youngest was just 21, the oldest, Madeleine Riley, turned 80 during the semester, in fact, her own very first college semester.

With the Rockaways an area long neglected as far as higher education goes, the students were enthusiastic and eager to learn. Many had attended classes elsewhere and were appreciative of having an opportunity to further their educational journey in their own community.

And during those first few months, the Rockaway students were also welcomed into the School of New Resources community during trips to the Co-op City Campus to hear a poetry reading by Sonia Sanchez and to the Main Campus, where they toured the Castle, had lunch, visited the bookstore, and saw

a performance of CNR Drama's "Metamorphoses."

Playing a key role in bringing the New Resources program to Far Rockaway was the Rockaway Development and Revitalization Corporation. In the RDRC's bid to make the Rockaways a more vital and forward moving community, offering a means of higher education was and is, a major priority – a pri-

ority that was clear as the RDRC helped to recruit students, provided office space for testing and registration, and allowed summer classes to be held in their offices on Mott Avenue.

Invigorated by the excitement and enthusiasm of the School's first semester in Far Rockaway, SNR Dean Elza Dinwiddie-Boyd wrote the students to thank them for helping to "forge a little bit of history in the ongoing chronicles of The College of New Rochelle, especially during the Centennial year."

And by the end of the semester, the students were equally grateful to The College of New Rochelle for bringing the program to their community. A card of thanks given to one professor was signed, "The College of New Rochelle School of New Resources Class of 2008." Said student Sabrina Davis, "I am so glad I was a part of the first class held in Far Rockaway, because it was an experience I will treasure for the rest of my life. I am confident that I will be a part of The College of New Rochelle graduating ceremony one day, because I am working very hard towards completing what I started 20 years ago."

This summer, Sabrina and her fellow students were joined by several new students for classes at RDRC, and fall promises to be another exciting semester, with more courses being offered and classes being held three nights per week, once again at P.S. 198.

– Judith Balfe



Empowering Women to Learn



SNR Dean Elza Dinwiddie-Boyd (center) at the conference in Korea in July.

If we as educators are to
empower and foster life-long
learning, then we must
validate the enormous
experience that adult women
bring to the classroom.

July of 2004 found six women alumnae of the School of New Resources at a conference in Tokyo, Japan and at Ewha Women's University in Seoul, Korea. Though they were only there as part of a PowerPoint presentation by Dean Elza Dinwiddie-Boyd, their faces and their words were clearly seen and heard. Shown at their respective New Resources campuses, the women spoke of the benefits of a liberal arts education, eloquently conveying the empowerment gained from an education at the School of New Resources.

The presentation, part of an international research project on Women's Learning Needs and Practices sponsored by the National Women's Education Centre and funded by the Ministry of Education in Japan, was the culmination of two years of hard work. In July 2002, the School of New Resources was one of just four schools worldwide invited to design and implement surveys to be used in identifying women's interest in learning and their learning behavior in the United States, Norway, and South Korea, with the goal of applying the results to further develop educational policies to empower Japanese women, women who have traditionally been expected to focus their energies on their homes and families, rather than higher education and careers.

Since that time, more than 350 New Resources students have participated in the study through focus groups and surveys, with the data collected resulting in Dean Boyd's presentation this summer. Speaking on "African-American Women, Empowerment, Lifelong Learning and the School of New Resources' Non-traditional Model," Dean Boyd talked of the word empowerment as a "higher educational model that will enable adult women to be in control of their educational destinies as they seek to achieve their academic, career, and family life goals." Examining the methodologies that assure that sense of empowerment and a thirst for lifelong learning is developed, she went on to speak of the importance of providing access, the value of experiential learning as well as the benefits to women of modes of learning outside the classroom, such as the independent study, telecourses, and the Prior Learning Portfolio, a process which awards credit for life experiences.

"If we as educators are to empower and foster lifelong learning, then we must validate the enormous experience that adult women bring to the classroom," said Dean Boyd during her presentation. "Our model is designed to validate these rich and varied experiences."

With the tremendous amount of information shared at the conference from the four countries, Dean Boyd came away confident that Japan and Korea were well on their way to finding effective methods of approaching education for mature Asian women, though she stressed that the learning and discussion needs to continue.

"I was delighted to have had the opportunity to share the New Resources model of adult learning and demonstrate its success with our international colleagues in higher education," she says. "Coming together again allowed us to determine best practices, address barriers to success, and recommend new opportunities to ensure the empowerment and lifelong learning of women around the world." — *Judith Balfe*

Con Edison Access Center Dedicated at Rosa Parks Campus

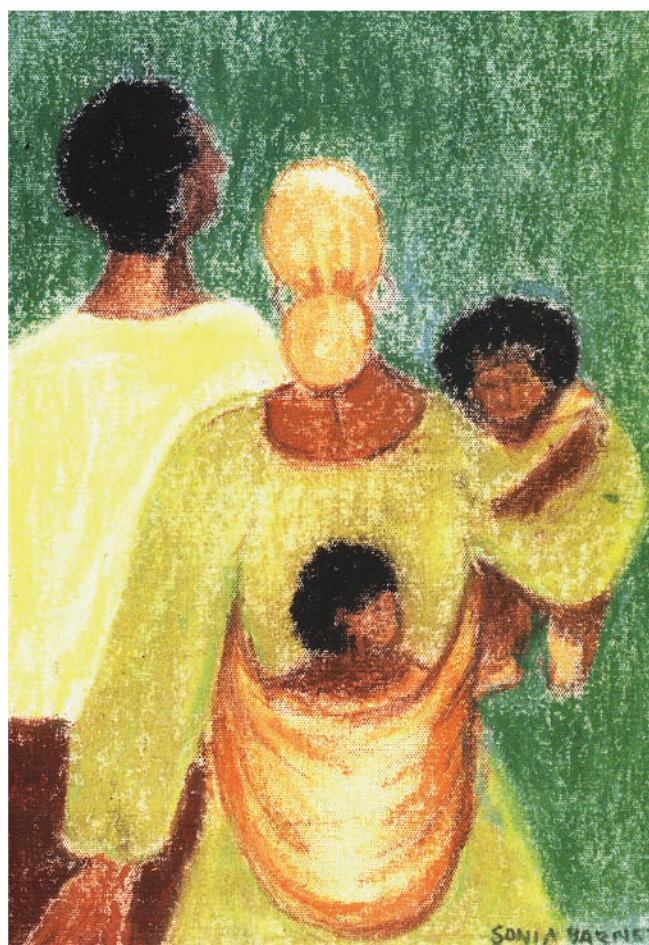


At the reception to dedicate the new Con Ed Access Center are (from left): SNR Rosa Parks Campus Director Mary Davis, Michael Ambler, Chair of the CNR Board of Trustees, Joan Freilich, Executive Vice President & CFO for Con Edison and Vice Chair of the CNR Board of Trustees, Frances Resheske, Senior Vice President for Public Affairs for Con Edison, CNR President Stephen Sweeny, and SNR Dean Elza Dinwiddie-Boyd.

On June 8, CNR President Stephen Sweeny officially dedicated the Con Edison Access Center at the School of New Resources Rosa Parks Campus in Harlem in recognition of a \$100,000 grant from Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. The funds will be used to enhance technology infrastructure, purchase new equipment and software, and provide ongoing maintenance and training for faculty and staff in the Access Center, which supports 600 enrolled and 200 prospective students.

"SNR Access Centers, located at each of our six branch campuses, provide academic tutoring and college and career counseling to prospective and enrolled adult students," said Elza Dinwiddie-Boyd, Dean of the School of New Resources. "These centers play an important role in helping students develop communication skills, problem-solving skills, mathematical skills, and technological literacy. We are delighted that Con Edison has decided to invest in our Harlem campus with this generous gift."

Speaking to those gathered for the reception that early June afternoon, Joan Freilich, Executive Vice President and CFO of Con Edison and Vice Chair of the College's Board of Trustees, said, "At Con Edison, we support lifelong learning because we've seen over and over again, through our own experience and in study after study, that the road to a better quality of life is through the classroom – whether it be in a traditional school or in cyberspace. The School of New Resources provides its students with the ability to develop knowledge, independence, and creativity that will enrich their personal lives today, and enable them to continue in the future their own individual quests for 'wisdom for life.'"



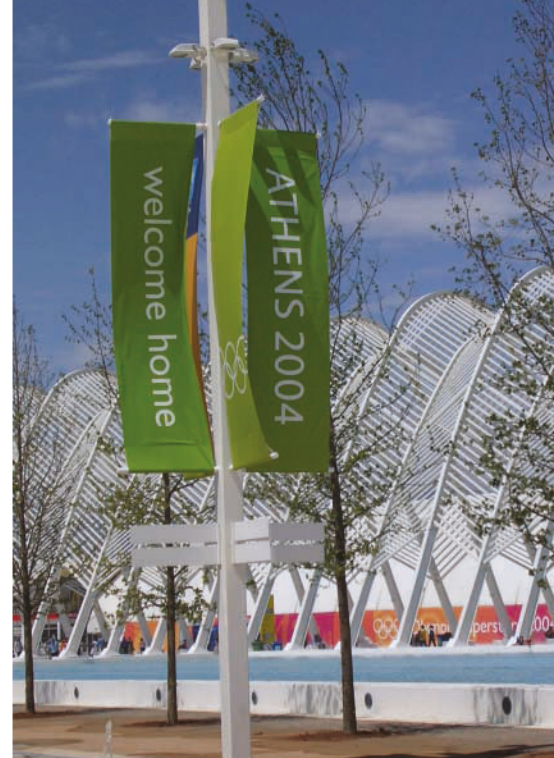
"REFLECTIONS ON BLESSINGS" AT CARDINAL O'CONNOR CAMPUS

"Reflections on Blessings," an exhibit of work by Sonia Barnett is on exhibit at the Gordon Parks Gallery at the School of New Resources John Cardinal O'Connor Campus through January 7, 2005. A native of Jamaica, Sonia Barnett is a self-taught artist who first exhibited her work in 2002. Much of her work reflects water and island scenes, particularly of St. Thomas. Exhibit viewing is by appointment. For further information, please call (718) 665-1310.

"When the School of New Resources provides access to those who were not able to pursue a college education right out of high school, it's providing a precious opportunity for men and women to make a better life for themselves and their families, and it's also helping to ensure that this community and our great city continue to grow and prosper. Con Edison is proud and privileged to partner with you in this important endeavor."

This grant represents a continued partnership between Con Edison and The College of New Rochelle that has spanned many years. Most recently, Con Edison supported the expansion of the Access Center at the School of New Resources Brooklyn Campus with grants in 2001 and 2002 that funded tutoring to enhance student skills. During the first year the expanded program was in place, the number of prospective students served by the Brooklyn Access Center increased by 50 to more than 300 students. Sixty percent of those prospective students went on to enroll in the baccalaureate degree program offered at the Brooklyn Campus.

– Lenore Carpinelli



Live from the 2004 Olympic Games

Members of the College Community got a behind-the-scenes look at this summer's Olympic Games thanks to Dr. Amy Bass, SAS Assistant Professor of History and Honors Program Director, who was in Athens, Greece to supervise NBC's Research Room. Throughout the games, Dr. Bass shared regular updates through a special page on the College's web site (www.cnr.edu), spotlighting the achievements of the United States' team and bringing personal insight to the interesting stories of the individual athletes.

The author of *Not the Triumph but the Struggle: the 1968 Olympic Games and the Making of the Black Athlete*, Dr. Bass has worked for the NBC research team at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, and the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. As supervisor of the Research Room, Dr. Bass and her team serve as the information network for NBC during the Games to ensure accurate and thorough coverage by gathering the wealth of information for the Opening Ceremony, spotlighting the interesting stories that arise during the competition, and marking the significant athletic records that are set.

The following are excerpts from Dr. Bass' Olympics diary:

August 5

Pin Mania

Olympic pin trading is a time-honored tradition for those of us who wander through an Olympic Games. They come from many places – national delegations have pins, as do teams, sports, corporate sponsors, and various media organizations. Pins can also be bought in Olympic stores, but the preferred and honorable way of acquiring pins is through the “trade” – one for one, if both parties consider the pins equal; a different balance if a more valuable pin is at stake. To obtain my “Green Jello” pin in Salt Lake City, for example, I needed to trade three NBC pins. The Jello pin was the pin of SLC, emanating from the fact that people in Utah apparently eat more Jello than anyone else in the United States... My first pin of these

Games is from TV Azteca, the Mexican network covering the Olympics. I hope to add many more to my collection before the Games are over. They embody the spirit of the games, as well as national identity, and they serve as one of the smaller modes of advertising. But for me, they are a fabulous souvenir from each Olympics I have been to, and of all the people that I meet.

August 10

Getting Closer to the Opening Ceremony

Things are really starting to pick up as we get closer to the Opening Ceremony. The workday is moving into 15 and 16 hours, and my days of sightseeing are likely over. Every day, I work with the 30 or so people in the Research Room who are preparing the information that

will be necessary for this gigantic broadcast – the largest broadcast in the history of television: over 1,200 hours, shown 24 hours a day, on seven NBC channels (NBC, CNBC, MSNBC, USA, Bravo, HDTV, and Telemundo). Researchers spend their days and nights studying every sport on the Olympic program in Athens, speaking with delegations from around the world in a variety of languages to see who is going to carry the flag for their team in the Opening Ceremony's Parade of Nations, and answering the questions of writers, producers, analysts, and show hosts. Where is Kiribati? Is this the first time that women have wrestled in Olympic competition? Who is the oldest athlete competing in these Games? Who is the tallest? Which U.S. state sends the most athletes? (California, by the way, by far!)...

August 16**The Old and The New**

With the Olympics returning to Athens, the specter of the ancient games looms large. In 776 B.C., the first Olympics lasted just a day, and rather than the 301 events that the 2004 program encompasses, they consisted of a single foot-race. One nod to the Ancient Games is the mascots of these Games, Phevos and Athena. The two mascots are designed to resemble an ancient toy that dates back some 5,000 years and is on exhibit in the National Archaeological Museum in Athens... Another infusion of antiquity is the olive wreaths that are placed on each medallist's head... But perhaps the greatest homage to the Ancient Games will be on August 18, when the Olympics return to Olympia, the place where sport began. Both men's and women's shot put will take place at the ancient site, creating a wonderful connection between Greece's Olympic past and its present...

August 18**To Watch or Work**

There is a strange catch-22 to working in the Research Room. With televisions surrounding us, all showing live feed from every venue, as well as monitors giving us the feed from the shows in production, we are inundated with the Olympics... When something exciting happens, we tend to stop what we're doing and watch, cheer, and celebrate. However, these moments are when the phones start ringing off the hook with questions that need answers... So there we were, huddled around the screen together, cheering on Michael Phelps as he won the 200m butterfly, and screaming as America's Klete Keller held off Australia's Ian Thorpe in the final lap of the men's 4x200m freestyle relay. You could hear people rooting up and down the halls of the NBC space, torn between the Australians that we got to know so well four years ago, and as proud of the Americans as could be. It was an amazing moment: Keller, Phelps, Ryan Lochte, and Peter Vanderkaay swam the third fastest time ever in this event, just edging the Australians out. And then, one night later, came men's gymnastics... Our focus turned to



Photo top: The American Relay Team is interviewed just moments after their amazing victory.

Photo middle: U.S. decathlete Bryan Clay pole vaults his way to a silver medal.

Photo bottom: One of the many women athletes in attendance, USA softball star Jennie Finch.

Wisconsin's Paul Hamm. Yet our hopes were dashed when he took a nasty stumble on the vault, seemingly throwing himself out of competition. But fate – and his strength and ability – prevailed: with a stunning final routine on the high bar, Hamm secured his place in

history. A huge achievement: the first American to win an all-around Olympic title in gymnastics.

August 26**I Had a Choice**

I had a choice: see the women's hoop team play or see the men play. Oddly, and completely out of character, I chose the men.

Without question, American women have garnered a lot of respect on international playing fields in the last decade or so...

In Athens, of the 10,864 athletes, 4,412 are women – just over 40 percent. For the Americans, 258 of the 536 athletes are women, almost 50 percent. And their global dominance continues. Softball gold is already secured. Gymnastics team silver and all-around gold are in hand. Water polo bronze – done. And just minutes before I began to write this, the U.S. women charged across the soccer pitch to take gold over the Brazilians, 2-1 in extra time.

But still, when faced with the opportunity to see the American women face Greece or see the American men face undefeated Spain on the basketball court, I chose the men. I have seen the U.S. women play in the Olympics: I have seen them win gold, I have been one among thousands cheering them on. But this time, I wanted to be an American (at a game dominated since its beginning by Americans) and hear the booing, the hissing, the whistling

It came. But rather undeservedly. For all the flack these guys have gotten, these post-Dream Teamers, they were good. The U.S. knocked in 12 three-point shots, broke 100 points for the first time in this tournament, showed a lot of heart and a lot of passion, and they won...

And for about an hour, I became an ugly American, cheering amidst a sea of Spanish red and gold, cheering as boos filled the arena every time the U.S. scored. I have hopes for this team.

I have hopes that they will represent the United States as well as the women do.

To read Amy Bass' entire Olympics diary, visit CNR's web site at www.cnr.edu.

THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE: LEADERSHIP FOR THE SECOND CENTURY

It is a relatively small group, but its impact is enormous. President's Circle members provide 76 percent of the unrestricted dollars raised for the College's current needs and are, as CNR President Stephen Sweeny says, "our closest friends, our partners in the present and future vitality of CNR." The President's Circle is the College's highest-level gift club recognizing leadership donors who give **unrestricted** support to the Annual Fund. Members of The President's Circle are actively leading CNR into its second century.

Partners for the Future

As the College concludes its Centennial year, it looks beyond this particular moment of strength to embrace the future. Because members of The President's Circle provide the mainstay of unrestricted financial support each year, an open invitation is extended to all graduates and friends to become active partners in CNR's future by joining The President's Circle.

THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

The President's Circle recognizes those alumnae/i, parents, faculty and friends of The College of New Rochelle whose exceptional **unrestricted** leadership giving to the Annual Fund provides more than 75% of the total funds raised, reflecting their deep understanding of the College and its mission. Six levels of distinction exist within The President's Circle. Membership is extended to those individuals who contribute **unrestricted gifts** of \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund before June 30 each year.

The President's Circle

Centennial Council Member	\$25,000+
Ursuline Heritage Society	
Member	\$10,000+
Distinguished Member	\$5,000+
Castle Associates Member	\$3,000+
Founding Member	\$1,904+
Member	\$1,000+

President's Circle membership is also extended to those (living) who have given a cumulative lifetime total of \$100,000 or more to the College.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ✓ Special listing in the *Annual Report*
- ✓ Invitations to The President's Circle Dinner and other special events
- ✓ The President's Letter, a quarterly newsletter for members only
- ✓ The satisfaction of giving young women and adults the benefits of a CNR education

Why Unrestricted Support

The College of New Rochelle, like other private educational institutions, needs unrestricted annual gifts for current use that can be directed, as needed, to meet institutional priorities. These gifts have a significant positive impact on the life of the College. They help make up the ever-increasing difference between what tuition covers and the actual cost of a CNR education, and allow the College to use the funds for scholarships and financial aid, faculty initiatives, and other student-related activities. These annual gifts provide much needed financial continuity from year to year.

Expand the Circle

The College endures as a Catholic, liberal arts college, its health and vitality strengthened because individuals have chosen to make CNR one of their top philanthropic priorities. To flourish, CNR needs an expanded circle of leadership support. **Become a member of The President's Circle this Centennial year.**



Susanne Lebrija SNR'05

1955. As the car wound through the dark, rain-soaked streets of Mexico City, eight-year old Susanne Lebrija huddled close to her mother and younger brothers in the back seat, hoping that it was all just a bad dream from which she would soon wake to find herself back at home in New Jersey. The long drive in the storm took them past poor, desperately crowded neighborhoods, and at journey's end, as the family walked through the locked gate that protected their new home, Susanne eyed the wrought iron bars that covered the windows and was sure that this was a dangerous place indeed. Beyond that little girl's anxious musings, however, lay an extraordinary extended family in a community that would become for Susanne a place of great happiness, personal fulfillment, and spiritual growth.

Susanne began school in Mexico City at Merici Academy, an all-girls Ursuline school. Though the school's curriculum was taught entirely in Spanish, the young woman who had been so wary of life in a new country thrived at Merici, excelling in her studies and, through Ursuline mentors, developing a profound respect for her faith.

"I developed a deep love for my faith and learned the importance of con-

science, principles, responsibility, and values and of the importance of giving back to my community," she says.

It was at Merici's two-room extension school in the late 1950s that Susanne's interest in social service first emerged, and, still a school girl herself, she volunteered as a catechism teacher for the poor children who were being taught there.

Years later, Susanne answered a knock on her front door that would change her life and, in turn, the lives of countless others. The woman was asking for a donation for a clinic a few women hoped to establish for the poor of their community. Now married and the mother of two with a third on the way, Susanne had recently moved her rapidly expanding family (which eventually grew to include five sons) from their small apartment to a larger home in an affluent community, where just outside their gates families lived in dire poverty, and she witnessed anew the disturbing disparity between those who had and those who had nothing.

Within weeks, she was volunteering at the clinic, and within a year, as a co-founder, saw its legalization as the *Dispensario de Ayuda Social, A.C.* (DAS). For the next three decades, Susanne's devotion to DAS grew ever more passionate with each year. As the first president elected to DAS' Board of Directors and later its treasurer, she was instrumental in obtaining personal and private grant monies to fund its expansion and relocation.

But while Susanne took her "executive" positions very seriously, her heart remained with the dispensary's hundreds of patients seeking not only medical attention, but emotional support,

counseling, and training.

"In our patients' precarious lives, there were issues just as pressing as poor health and poverty – emotional problems, dysfunctional family life, and low self-esteem," she explains.

To address those needs, Susanne and others began a self-help group for women, developed summer courses for teens, and organized events for children. Susanne lobbied for DAS before local organizations and foreign ambassadors, even appearing on a television show about women's issues. Susanne would be the dispensary's staunchest and most passionate supporter, seeing the grass roots endeavor grow from a simple dream to a medical and social service facility with 19 physicians, 80 volunteers, and hundreds of clients.

Two years ago, when Susanne decided to move back to the United States, she bid a bittersweet adios to her beloved *Dispensario* and adopted country. After a lifetime devoted to others, Susanne decided to "do some things just for me." Deciding that one of her quests would be a college degree, she remembered the "Ursuline college" that had accepted her application nearly 40 years ago – The College of New Rochelle.

Today, Susanne is studying in the School of New Resources, pursuing a degree that she hopes will lead to a career in – what else? – a non-profit organization dedicated to aiding the poor.

In the meantime, she's enjoying life in a college so dedicated, as is she, to the Ursuline principle of *Serviam*. "For me," she says, "being at CNR is like coming home all over again."

– Irene Villaverde

Margaret Carey '30
never had any
children. She died
in 2003.



But this year five of her “daughters” are
beginning their college careers.

Margaret Carey loved collecting and selling antiques, flea markets, and yard sales. It was her way of keeping the past alive. With her mind sharp well into her 90s, she could always spot a bargain, and she loved the thrill of the hunt. Though Margaret did not have children of her own, she chose to shape her history and the tomorrows she would never see by helping other people's children. Through Margaret's estate gift to her alma mater, she expanded the general scholarship fund at The College of New Rochelle for young women who need tuition assis-

tance. Seventy four years after Margaret's graduation, her CNR “children” began their freshman year. Without Margaret's gift, those five beginnings would not have been possible.

Now that's keeping the past alive. . . .

Take care of your family and friends first, but also remember The College of New Rochelle in your estate plans. Join the Heritage Society and, like Margaret, provide a bright educational future for those women who otherwise wouldn't have one.



The College of New Rochelle

Call Dr. Carole Weaver, Director of Gift Planning at the College, 914-654-5914,
and ask how you can leave a legacy of your own.

Following in the Footsteps of St. Angela Merici

Five centuries ago, a young Angela Merici walked the earthen paths of Desenzano, Italy. As an adult, her footsteps echoed upon the stone floor of the Church of St. Afra in Brescia, Italy. Though the sound of those footsteps long ago faded away, the spirit, the vision of Angela Merici, the foundress of the Order of St. Ursula, remains ever present across nearly every continent in the world.

In May, a group from the College – administrators, trustees, and Ursulines – walked those same paths that Angela Merici did so long ago during a retreat to Italy. Led by Sr. Anne Curry, OSU '48, the group began their journey in Desenzano, where they visited Via Castello, one of the oldest streets in the city and the place of Angela's birth in the late fifteenth century, Le Grezze, the farmhouse where she lived with her family as a young girl, and Brodazzo, the site where in 1506 Angela is said to have had her vision to found a company of women. While there, they also visited several places in Desenzano now dedicated in Angela's honor, including the Cathedral, where numerous paintings depicting her life grace the walls, and the Church of St. Angela, where the group celebrated mass with parish priest Don Paolo.



Born in Desenzano on Lake Garda in Northern Italy, Saint Angela Merici grew up in a small farmhouse called "Le Grezze."



The Church of Saint Afra (now the Church of Saint Angela) in Brescia, Italy, where in 1535, in the oratory near the church, Saint Angela founded the Company of Saint Ursula.

Traveling on to Brescia where Angela would do her greatest work, the group toured the Church of St. Afra (now known as the Church of St. Angela), where in 1535 Angela Merici would found her company of women and where she is buried. Welcomed by the local Ursulines, the group enjoyed a wonderful lunch, before embarking on a walking tour of the Old City, during which they visited some of the impressive monuments and sites special to St. Angela, including the ancient Duomo, St. Clement, and the Church of St. Francis.

Describing the trip as an "experience of a lifetime," trustee Lillian Brennan Carney '69 credits Sr. Anne Curry for clearly imparting her love of Angela to the group of 19 she led. "We researched our spiritual roots with as much conviction as one would a family genealogy. During those few days, we came to know Angela – an exemplary family member of great strength and renown. Our pride and thirst



CNR President Stephen Sweeny with (from left) Sr. Anne Curry '48, Sr. Jeanne Brennan '45, Sr. Jeanne Giebelhouse '65, Sr. Jean Baptiste Nicholson '60, Sr. Regina Kehoe '56, Sr. Kathleen Finnerty '60, Sr. Margaret Mary Kelleher, and Sr. Susan Conte SAS'73.

for knowledge of Angela caused us to seek to turn over every stone to discover even more about this amazing woman and her company of women."

Though it was the fourth trip to Angela country for trustee Sr. Jeanne Brennan '45, the trip remained meaningful. "Throughout the trip, Angela was with us in our search, in our sharing, in our wonderful laughter as we grew in her spirit of joy and companionship amidst the beauty and history of northern Italy. We were blessed by Angela and one another, bonded in new and deeper ways, and strengthened in our dedication to the mission of The College of New Rochelle."

And, says Michael Ambler, Chair of the Board of Trustees, they also had a great deal of fun. "Between the churches, the retreats, the gelati, and the pizza, there was never a dull moment."

By the conclusion of the short trip, the group returned to New Rochelle refreshed and rejuvenated from the profoundly spiritual experience, looking anew at the College, now celebrating 100 years, that continues to be guided and validated by the legacy of the daughter of a poor farmer from a small Italian town an ocean away whose influence has reverberated around the world – St. Angela Merici.

– Lenore Carpinelli

We Remember...



ROBERT G. FANELLI

A devoted friend of the College, Robert Fanelli died on July 23 at the age of 90. A businessman and attorney who headed several law firms and was President and Chairman of Arnold Bakers, Robert also was very active in civic affairs. In addition to his service on the Col-

lege's Board of Trustees from 1975 to 1980, he chaired the New Rochelle Public Housing Authority and served on the New Rochelle Board of Education. May he rest in peace.

From the Desk of...

THE ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Alumnae/i,

As this Centennial year closes, the Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors is proud to report that we have had an exciting and productive year. In addition to participating in the many wonderful Centennial events, we have worked with the Alumnae/i Office, faculty, staff, and students to further engage all alumnae/i of the College. Under the last Board president, we formed committees to partner with the College Community in specially selected areas – Communications, Mentoring, Recruitment, Programming, and Annual Giving – and this approach has resulted in greater productivity.

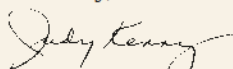
The Communications Committee brought the Alumnae/i Board into the twenty-first century by creating a website enabling our committees to hold discussions and “meetings” from home or workplace, an initiative that then became a significant force in the launch of the Alumnae/i Online Community. The Mentoring Committee implemented an E-Mentoring program, which was featured in the last issue of *Quarterly*. This program pairs an alumna with a student based on academic and professional interests. The Committee hopes to expand the program to serve all the Schools of the College. The Program Committee reworked its approach to events and expects the result to be a greater number of small gatherings addressing a wider variety of interests. The Recruitment Committee concentrated on strengthening relationships with staff, students, and alumnae/i to support methods of connecting prospective students to the College at an early stage, with the goal of creating a collaborative effort that encourages more students to consider and enroll in CNR. The Annual Giving Committee had a great year reaching out to many more alumnae/i, increasing both the number of donors and dollars to the Annual Fund. The Committee’s main focus, and that of the entire Board of Directors as well, is to more fully engage alumnae/i in the financial support of the College to ensure the continued vitality of the legacy that we have all inherited.

Overall, we had a wonderful year working together; yet we still face some real challenges. Because present students need our support more than ever before, we as alumnae/i need to create a greater awareness among more recent graduates of the need to maintain the same loyal financial support they, as students, received from alumnae/i.

For the coming year, it is my hope that we can work together to raise awareness of the many opportunities available to each of us to assist in accomplishing these goals. Please consider joining a Committee. Membership is open to all, not just Board members, and we are continually looking for wider input. If you are interested in finding out more about serving on a committee, running for a Board position, or know someone you think would be interested in supporting our goals, please call the Office of Alumnae/i Relations at 914-654-5293 or e-mail alum@cnr.edu for further information.

On behalf of the entire Board, I would like to thank everyone – administration, faculty, staff, alumnae/i, and students – who have worked with us during the past year. We invite all of you to help us make 2004-2005 even more successful!

Sincerely,



Judith Kenny SNR'82

President, Alumnae/i Association

Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors

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George Walters SNR'90, GS'92

Alumnae/i Trustee

Marion Carbery Lechowicz '59

COMPUTER DISCOUNT PROGRAM AVAILABLE

CNR alumnae/i are now eligible to purchase IBM personal computers at a significant savings through an innovative new program offered by the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU). Through the program, faculty, staff, students, and alumnae/i of member colleges may take advantage of the opportunity to receive a discount of \$400 to \$600 on select IBM standard models, including notebook and desktop computers, monitors, and printers.

For more information about the program and the models available, visit www.cnralum.onlinecommunity.com/ or www.cicu.org.



Get in Touch Without Having to do Lunch

Log on and find out not just who's who, but who's where. When you register, you verify your information in the directory and customize how much (or how little) information you want to make available to fellow alum.

All the News That's Fit to Email

You'll find the current issue of *Quarterly* online as well as back issues you would like to review.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Tell fellow alum about yourself – marriage, promotion, children, awards, world travel. And enhance your submission with a picture!

Looking to Get Involved?

The online calendar will give you what you seek and more. All events are listed by month and date. And now registration is just a click away with our secure server. "Look Who's Coming" shows you who will be there with you.

Registration is Free and Easy

Watch the mail for your unique personal ID code.

Visit www.cnr.edu.

Click on Alumnae/I Relations

Hit "First Time User" at the top of the screen.

 **Reconnect with Your Past...**
Connect with Your Future

WOMEN AND MEN OF WISDOM
THE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Consider remembering the College in your estate plans. Carefully chosen methods of giving, including bequests, charitable gift annuities, and trusts may allow you to generate and preserve your income, protect your heirs, and secure the future for The College of New Rochelle.

Over the last decade, bequests from alumnae/i and friends totaling over \$8 million have created scholarships and strengthened the academic experience for our students.

The Heritage Society recognizes those who have the foresight to provide for the College in their gift and estate plans. Their generosity and consideration have been an essential support for the continuance and growth of CNR.

Women and men of the Heritage Society show us wisdom for life.

For more information on the Heritage Society, and the various forms of planned giving available, please contact Dr. Carole Weaver at 914-654-5914 or cweaver@cnr.edu.



The College of New Rochelle

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NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10805-2339

